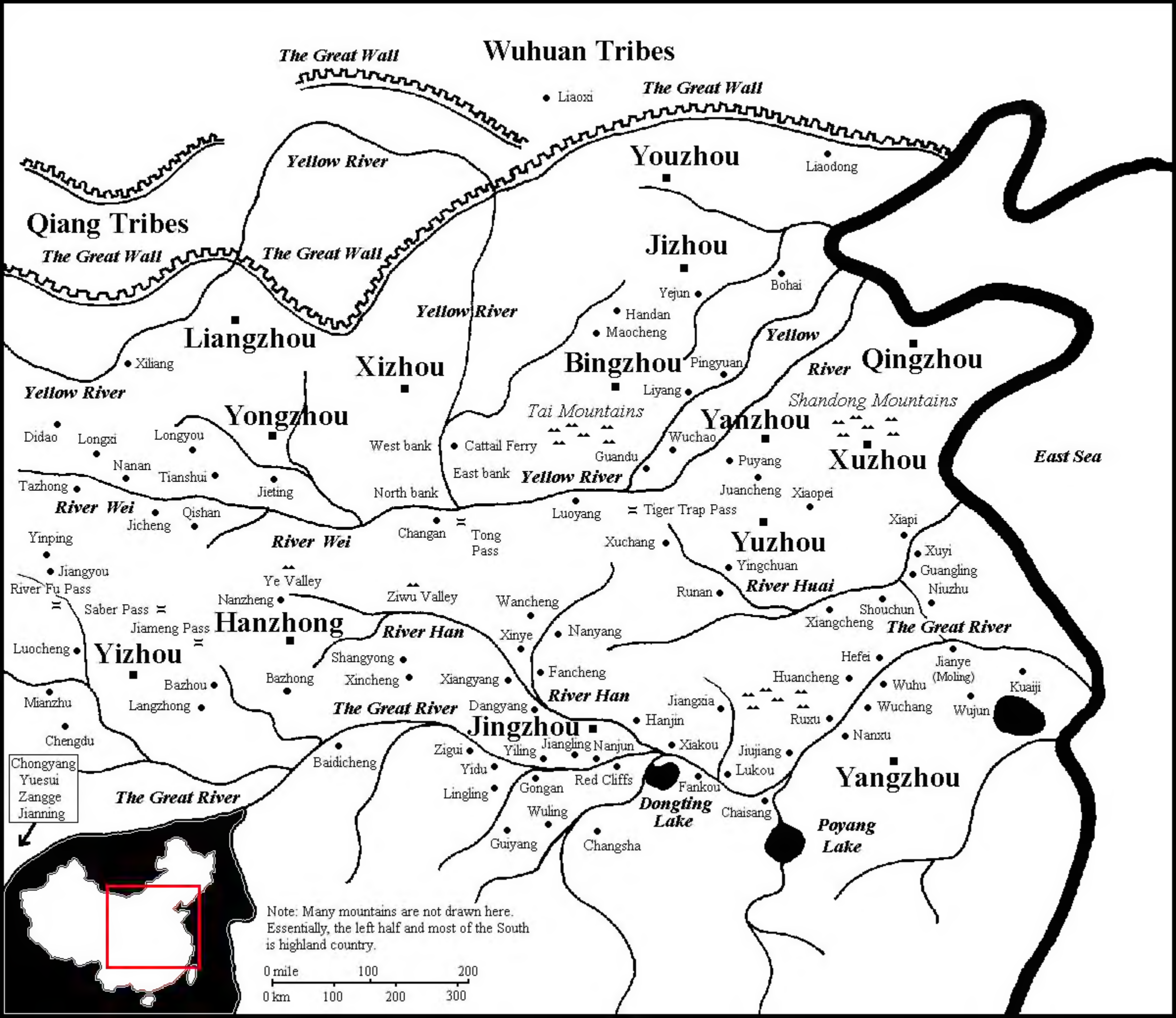

Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

# 三国志 ⑫

## 南陽の攻防戦



横山光輝

希望コミックス 49

# CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI
## PART 1: CHARACTERS TO KEEP IN MIND



CAO CAO MENGDE:

THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE SUPPRESSES ANOTHER REBELLION, EARNING HIM MANY TALENTED MEN AND MANY SOLDIERS. HE IS CURRENTLY THE GOVERNOR OF YANZHOU BUT IS FIGHTING LU BU WHO TRIES TO TAKE OVER HIS TERRITORY.

CONSORT HE:

HE JIN'S YOUNGER SISTER. ORIGINALLY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS WHO THEN PRESENTED HER TO EMPEROR LING. SHE BECAME EMPEROR LING'S FAVOURITE CONSORT AND GAVE BIRTH TO PRINCE LIU BIAN. SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED BY LI RU.

DIAN WEI:

CAO CAO'S FIERCE GENERAL RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS "E LAI," A MIGHTY GENERAL WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU.

DIAO CHAN:

A SLAVE GIRL BELONGING TO WANG YUN, BUT HE RAISED THE GIRL MORE OF AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. IN VOLUME 7, SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO. SHE KILLED HERSELF AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL IN VOLUME 8.

DONG CHENG:

A TRUSTED RETAINER OF EMPEROR XIAN. IN VOLUME 9, HE HELPS THE EMPEROR ESCAPE FROM LI JUE AND GUO SI.

DONG ZHUO:

GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZES CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATS HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. HE IS DEPICTED AS SADISTIC, CORRUPT, AND RUTHLESS TYRANT. HE WAS KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

GONGSUN ZAN:

GOVERNOR OF BEIPING WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HE WAGED WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO AFTER THE LATTER TRICKED HIM AND KILLED HIS YOUNGER BROTHER BUT HAS SINCE MADE PEACE WITH YUAN SHAO.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:

SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

HE JIN:

OLDER BROTHER OF CONSORT HE. ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER BECAME EMPEROR LING'S CONSORT. HE ATTEMPTS TO THE TEN ATTENDANTS BUT IS DISSUADED BY HIS YOUNGER SISTER. HE IS LATER ASSASSINATED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS.



LIU BEI XUANDE:

THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. HE IS A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN SAID TO BE THE DESCENDANT OF EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. AS OF VOLUME 8, HE HAS BECOME THE GOVERNOR OF PINGYUAN.



LIU BIAO:

THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU WHO, ALONG WITH YUAN SHAO, TRIED TO KILL SUN JIAN TO RECOVER THE STOLEN IMPERIAL SEAL. HE SUCCESSFULLY THWARTED SUN JIAN'S ATTEMPTS TO TAKE JINGZHOU.



LU BU:

HE IS SAID TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR IN THE LAND WHO RIDES ON THE FASTEST HORSE IN THE LAND, THE RED HARE. AS OF VOLUME 8, HE HAS BETRAYED HIS FORMER LORD AND FOSTER-FATHER, DONG ZHUO, BUT IS LEFT WITHOUT A TERRITORY OF HIS OWN. HE ATTEMPTS TO TAKE YANZHOU FROM CAO CAO.



SUN JIAN:

BORN IN WU COMMANDERY AND WAS THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO IN VOLUME 5. WHEN HE FOUND THE IMPERIAL SEAL, HIS ALLIES YUAN SHAO AND LIU BIAO ATTEMPTED TO KILL HIM TO RETRIEVE THE SEAL. IN VOLUME 7, HE TRIED TO EXACT HIS REVENGE BY ATTACKING LIU BIAO BUT WAS KILLED IN BATTLE.



SUN CE:

ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN. PARTICIPATED IN HIS FATHER'S CAMPAIGN TO INVADE JINGZHOU.



SUN QUAN:

YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE.



TAISHI CI:

SUN CE'S TRUSTED GENERAL. FORMERLY LIU YAO'S SUBORDINATE BUT LATER SWITCHED SIDES TO BECOME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE AFTER HE WAS CAPTURED.



TEN ATTENDANTS:

A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY SUCCEEDED IN ASSASSINATING GENERAL HE JIN BUT WERE LATER KILLED BY HE JIN'S ARMY LED BY YUAN SHAO.



WANG YUN:

AN OLD MAN WHO HOLDS THE POST OF MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN HAN. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL. HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY WHO INVADE CHANG'AN (UNSHOWN IN MANGA)



WEN CHOU:

HE AND YAN LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS.



YAN LIANG:

HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS.



XU CHU:

FORMERLY A PEASANT, HIS TALENTS WERE NOTICED BY CAO CAO WHO THEN TURNED HIM INTO ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES. HE IS NOW A GENERAL SERVING UNDER CAO CAO.



YUAN SHAO:

ORIGINALLY AN ADVISOR TO HE JIN, HE LEFT THE CAPITAL AND BECAME THE GOVERNOR OF BOHAI COMMANDERY WHEN DONG ZHUO CAME TO RULE OVER LUOYANG. HE HEADED THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO AND TRIED TO KILL HIS ALLY SUN JIAN IN ORDER TO RECOVER THE STOLEN IMPERIAL SEAL.



YUAN SHU:

YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. HE ASKS SUN JIAN TO HELP HIM ATTACK LIU BIAO AND HIS OLDER BROTHER IN VOLUME 7.



ZHANG FEI YIDE:

A FIERCE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.



ZHAO YUN ZILONG:

A FORMER RETAINER TO YUAN SHAO BUT HE IS NOW UNDER GONGSUN ZAN'S SERVICE. HE WISHES TO BE LIU BEI'S RETAINER, HOWEVER.

# CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

# PART 2: MINOR CHARACTERS



CAO HONG:

A GENERAL SERVING UNDER CAO CAO WHO IS ALSO HIS COUSIN. HE SAVED CAO CAO FROM CERTAIN DEATH IN VOLUME 6.



CAO SONG:

CAO CAO'S FATHER AND A FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. IN VOLUME 8, HE WAS KILLED BY ZHANG KAI, AN ESCORT SENT BY TAO QIAN, WHO WANTED TO STEAL HIS FORTUNES.



CHENG GONG:

A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH CAO CAO AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HE REGRETS HIS DECISION AFTER REALIZING CAO CAO'S CHARACTER. *IN THE ORIGINAL NOVEL, HE DEFECTS TO BECOME LU BU'S ADVISOR.



DING YUAN:

GOVERNOR OF BINGZHOU AND LU BU'S FOSTER-FATHER. HE OBJECTED TO DONG ZHUO'S SCHEME TO PLACE PRINCE CHENLIU AS THE EMPEROR OF HAN. HE WAS KILLED BY LU BU.

EMPRESS DOWAGER DONG:

FORMER EMPEROR LING'S MOTHER AND EMPEROR XIAN'S GRANDMOTHER. IN VOLUME 3, CONSORT HE ORDERED FOR HER DEATH IN ORDER TO SECURE HER SON LIU BIAN'S SEAT AS THE NEXT EMPEROR OF HAN.

GAO SHUN:

ONE OF LU BU'S TRUSTED GENERALS.



GUO SI:

A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED UNDER DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND LI JUE TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED. IN VOLUME 9, HE AND LI JUE FIGHT OVER THE EMPEROR BUT ENDS UP LOSING THE EMPEROR TO CAO CAO.



HUA XIONG:

ONE OF DONG ZHUO'S GENERALS. HE DEFEATED SUN JIAN'S ARMY BUT WAS LATER KILLED BY GUAN YU IN VOLUME 5.



JIANG QIN:

FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE AFTER REMEMBERING HOW FIERCE HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN, WAS LIKE. HE AND JIANG QIN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ALLOWING SUN CE TO CAPTURE NIUZHU.



LADY FUYOU:

FICTIONAL CHARACTER CREATED BY MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA AND LIU BEI'S FIRST LOVE. ZHANG FEI FORMERLY SERVED HER FAMILY, WHO WERE ALL KILLED BY THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELS.



LI JUE:

A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED UNDER DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND LI JUE TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED. IN VOLUME 9, HE AND GUO SI FIGHT OVER THE EMPEROR BUT ENDS UP LOSING THE EMPEROR TO CAO CAO.



LIU BIAN:

THE SON OF CONSORT HE AND WAS BRIEFLY THE EMPEROR OF HAN AFTER EMPEROR LING'S DEATH. HE WAS DEPOSED BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER BY LI RU.



LIU XIE (EMPEROR XIAN OF HAN):

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE PRINCE OF CHENLIU, HE IS THE CURRENT EMPEROR OF HAN. HE BECAME THE EMPEROR WHEN DONG ZHUO FORCIBLY DETHRONED HIS HALF-BROTHER LIU BIAN.



LIU YAO:

GOVERNOR OF YANGZHOU. HE STOLE THE LANDS OF DANYANG AWAY FROM SUN CE'S UNCLE, WU JIN. IN VOLUME 10, SUN CE SETS OUT TO RECLAIM HIS UNCLE'S LOST LANDS AND CONQUER THE REST OF YANGZHOU.



TAO QIAN:

THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY ANGERED CAO CAO WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLED CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG.



ZHANG BAO:

ZHANG JIAO'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND THE YELLOW TURBAN'S GENERAL OF THE LAND. HE WAS KILLED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 2.



ZHANG JIAO:

LEADER OF THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELLION. HE PASSED AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 3.



ZHOU TAI:

FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE AFTER REMEMBERING HOW FIERCE HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN, WAS LIKE. HE AND JIANG QIN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ALLOWING SUN CE TO CAPTURE NIUZHU.



ZHANG YING:

ONE OF LIU YAO'S GENERALS. HE WAS SENT TO DEFEND NIUZHU FROM SUN CE BUT WAS DEFEATED WHEN BANDITS (JIANG QIN AND ZHOU TAI) STAGED AN UPRISING FROM WITHIN.



ZHANG ZHAO/ZHANG HONG:

THE TWO GENIUSES OF JIANGDONG THAT ARE REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS." SUN CE SOUGHT TO ASK FOR THEIR ASSITANCE BEFORE SETTING OUT ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO CONQUER SOUTHEASTERN CHINA. AFTER SUN CE'S ADAMANT INSISTENCE, THEY FINALLY AGREED TO HELP HIM.

# -MORE TO COME IN THE FUTURE-

SANGOKUSHI

12

# ATTACK OF NANYANG



CAO CAO MENGDE

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

SANGOKUSHI
(ROMANCE OF THE
THREE KINGDOMS)

# 三国志（さんごくし）

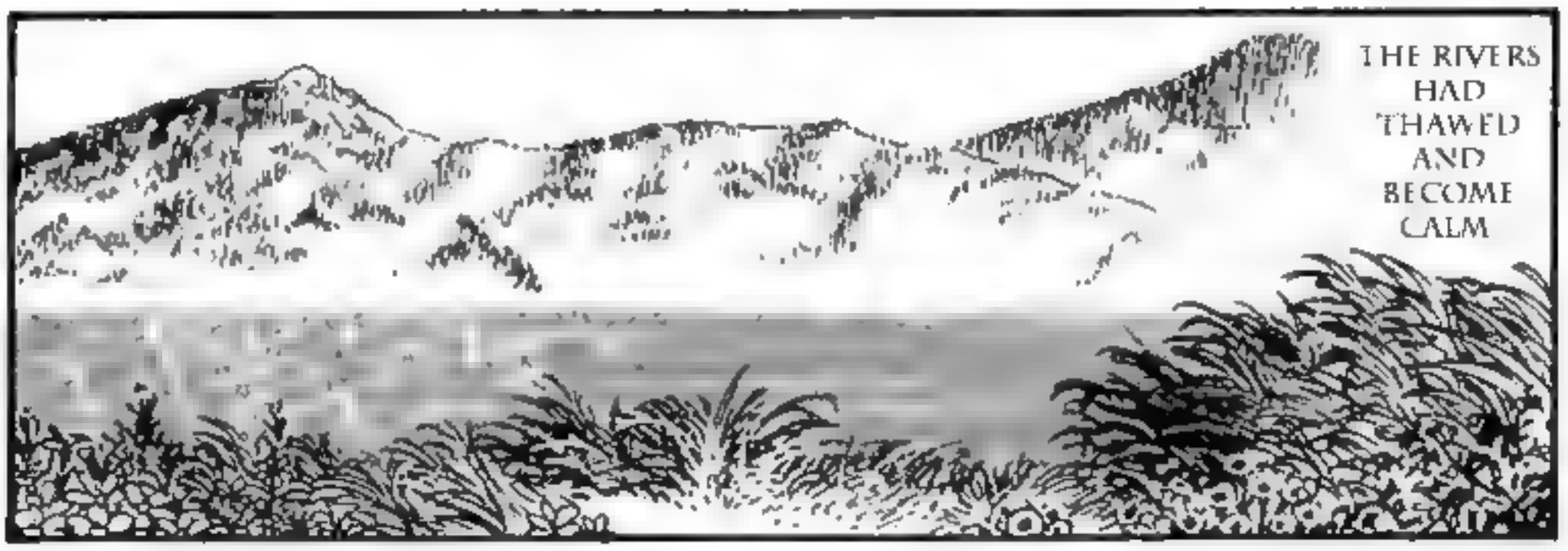
## VOLUME 12
## ATTACK OF NANYANG

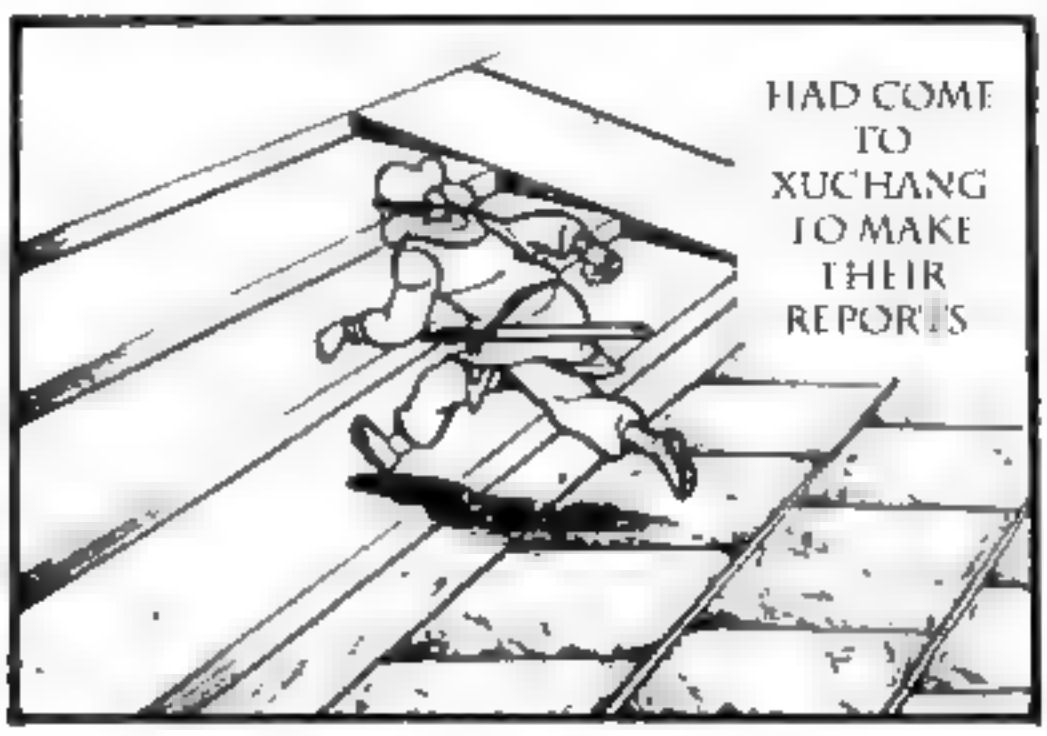

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ZHANG XIU'S SCHEME ..... 30
NANYANG CAMPAIGN ..... 7
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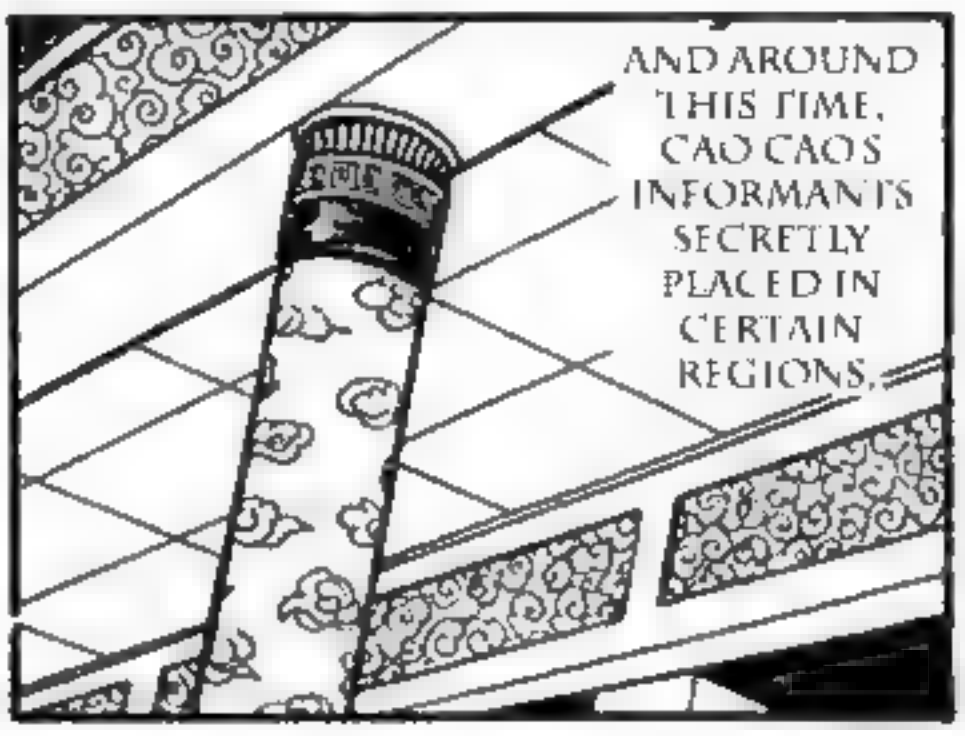

〔月刊『希望の友』掲載〕

# NANYANG CAMPAIGN



WHAT? THERE ARE PEOPLE PLOTTING TO ATTACK XUCHANG?

YES, SIR.

THEY ARE THE DEFEATED SOLDIERS OF GENERALS LI JUE AND GUO SI, WHO FORMERLY SERVED UNDER DONG ZHUO.

AND JUST WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE!?

THE INFORMANT REPORTED THUS:

AND GUO SI

READERS MAY STILL REMEMBER THE GENERALS LI JUE,

AFTER THE DEATH OF THEIR LORD, DONG ZHUO, THESE TWO TOOK CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL AND DID AS THEY PLEASED

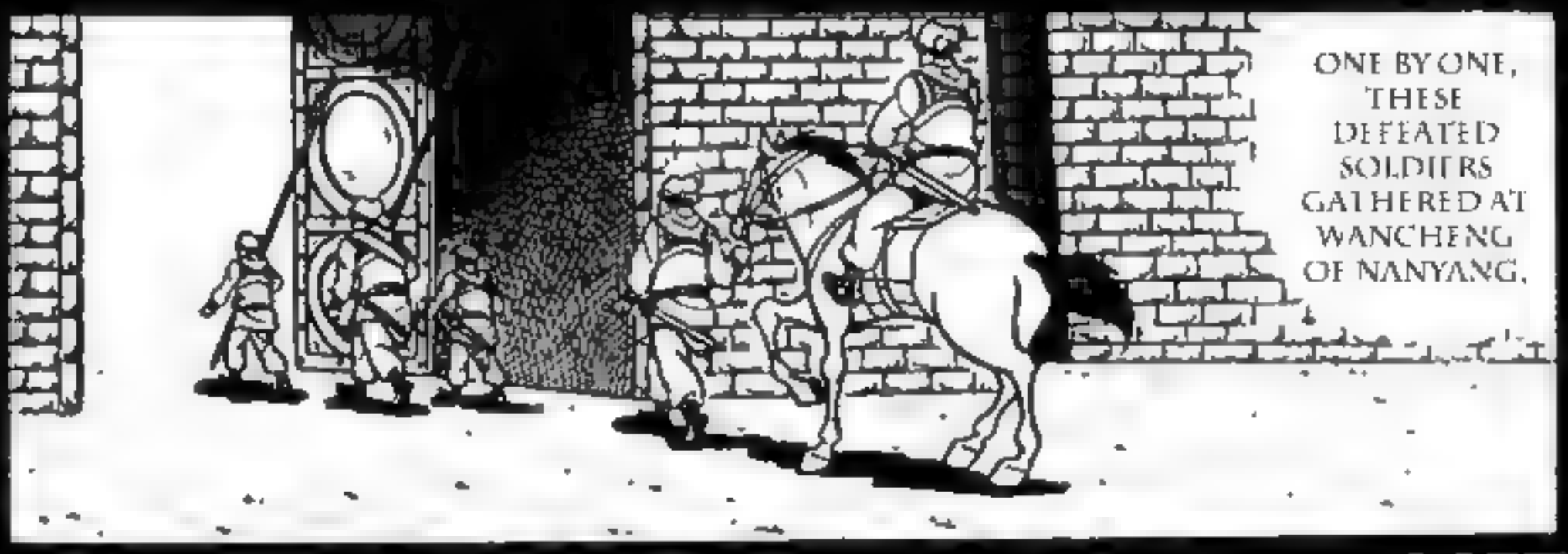

THEIR TYRANNICAL RULE CAUSED THE EMPEROR TO FLEE FROM CHANG AN


ONCE THE TWO HAD LEARNED OF THE EMPEROR'S FLIGHT, THEY IMMEDIATELY MOBILIZED THEIR ARMY TO CAPTURE THE EMPEROR

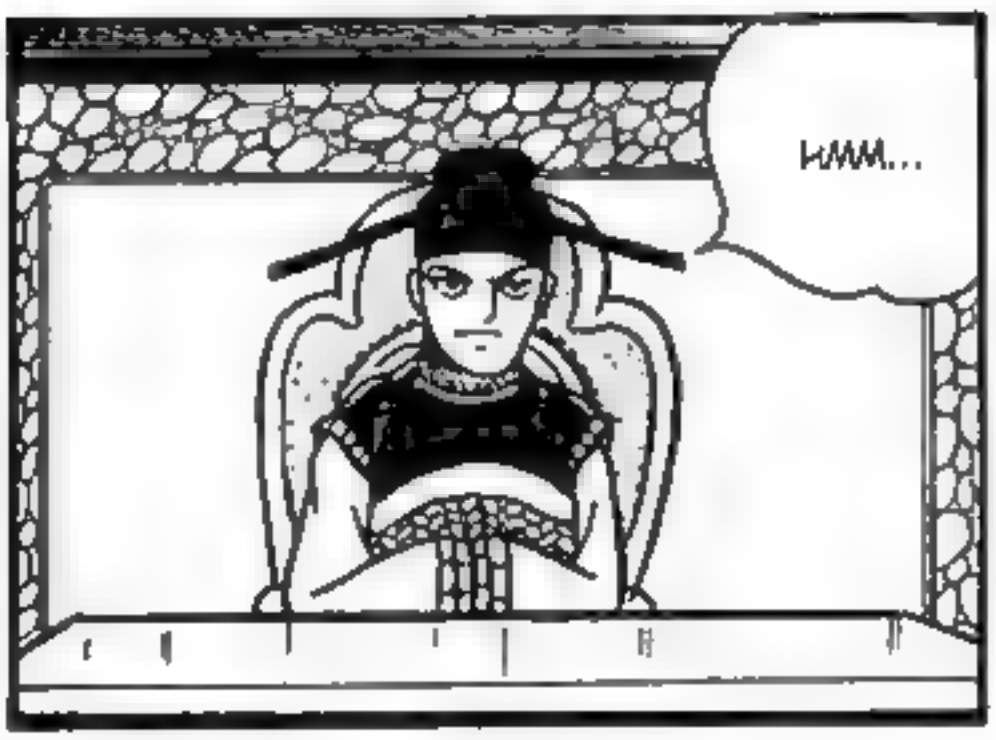

HOWEVER

THEY WERE DEFEATED BY CAO CAO'S FORCES.

AND THE SURVIV ING SOLDIERS FLED FOR THEIR LIFE


ONE BY ONE, THESE DEFEATED SOLDIERS GATHERED AT WANCHENG OF NANYANG.


AND THEY WERE NOW SLOWLY REBUILDING THEIR STRENGTH AND WAITING FOR AN IDEAL CHANCE TO ATTACK XU-CHANG TO CAPTURE THE EMPEROR.
WAN CHENG


HMM...


IT SEEMS THAT THEY HAVE YET TO ABANDON THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR POWER.

BUT I'M AFRAID I CANNOT DO THAT SO EASILY...

AND WHY IS THAT, SIR?

YES, I KNOW.

CHANCELLOR, WE MUST NOT IGNORE THIS THREAT.

THAT MAN WILL SURELY COME TO ATTACK XUCHANG AS SOON AS I LEAVE IT!

IT IS BECAUSE OF LU BU!

HE ATTACKED YANZHOU AS SOON AS I HAD LEFT IT AND I'M CERTAIN HE WILL DARE TO DO IT AGAIN.

LU BU IS A MAN MOTIVATED EASILY BY WEALTH AND POWER.

WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE AN IDEA THEN, MY LORD.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A VERY GOOD PLAN.

I SEE...

IF HE WERE TO BE BESTOWED WITH GIFTS AND A PROMOTION FROM THE EMPEROR, HE WILL NOT DARE TO THINK OF ATTACKING THE CAPITAL.

YES, MY LORD

ALRIGHT, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU THEN.

YES, SIR.

WHAT? THE EMPEROR HAS BESTOWED ME WITH THE TITLE OF "GENERAL WHO PACIFIES THE EAST"?

AHH!

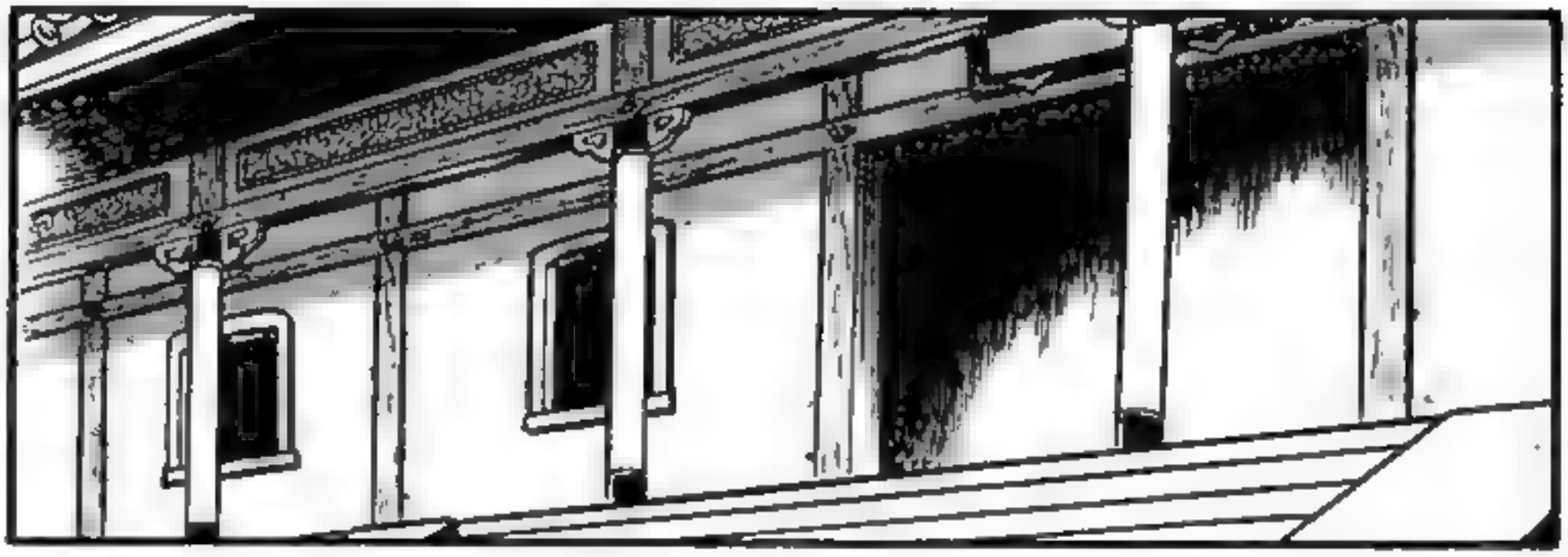
AND THESE ARE GIFTS THAT THE EMPEROR WISHES TO PRESENT TO SIR.

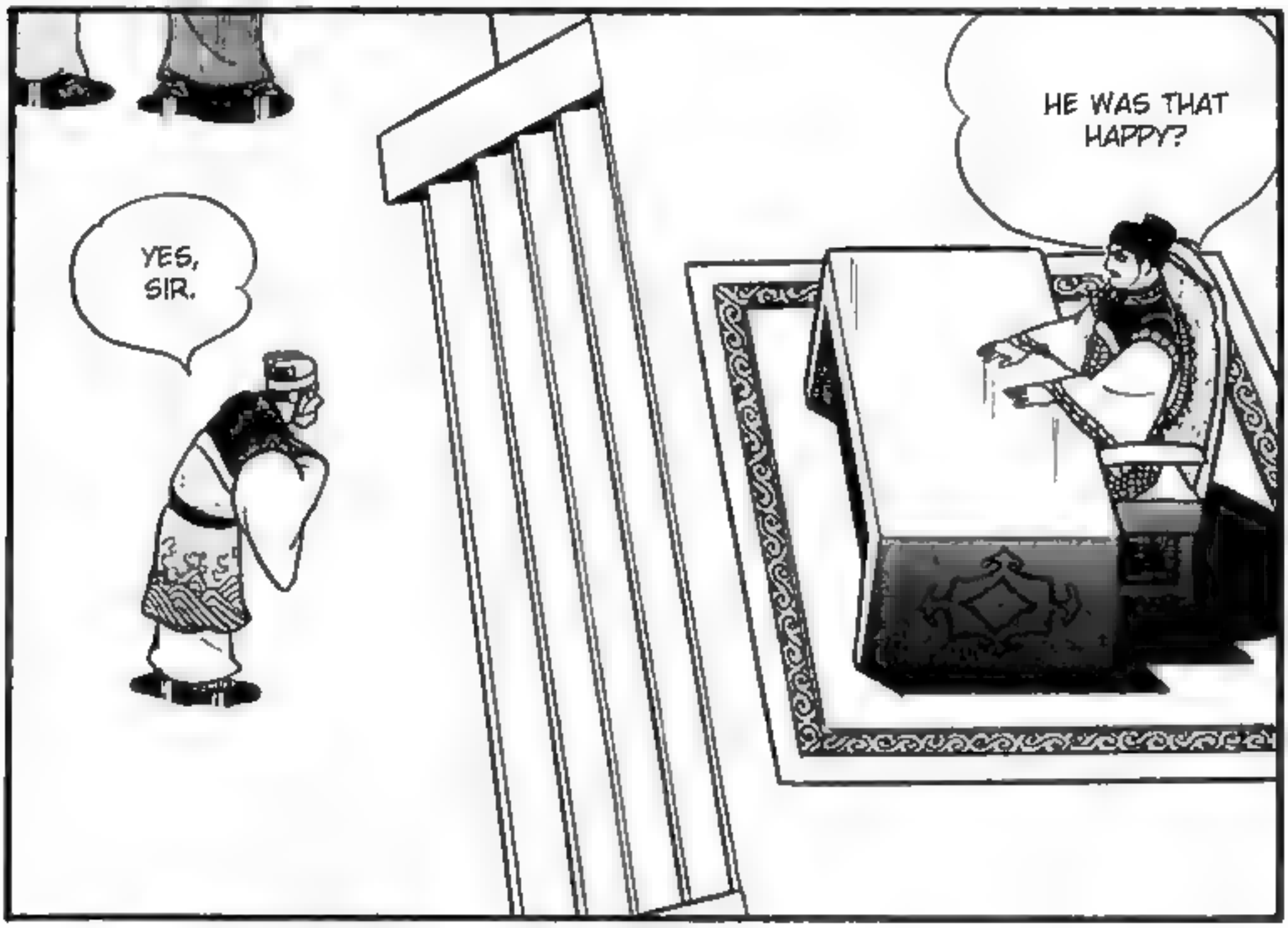
XUZHOU

SERVANTS! LET US SHOW THE IMPERIAL MESSENGER A WARM WELCOME!

I'M AT A LOSS TO HOW TO RESOND TO SUCH GENER-OSITY... PLEASE TELL HIS HIGHNESS THAT I SHALL WORK EVEN HARDER TO BE OF SERVICE TO HIM.

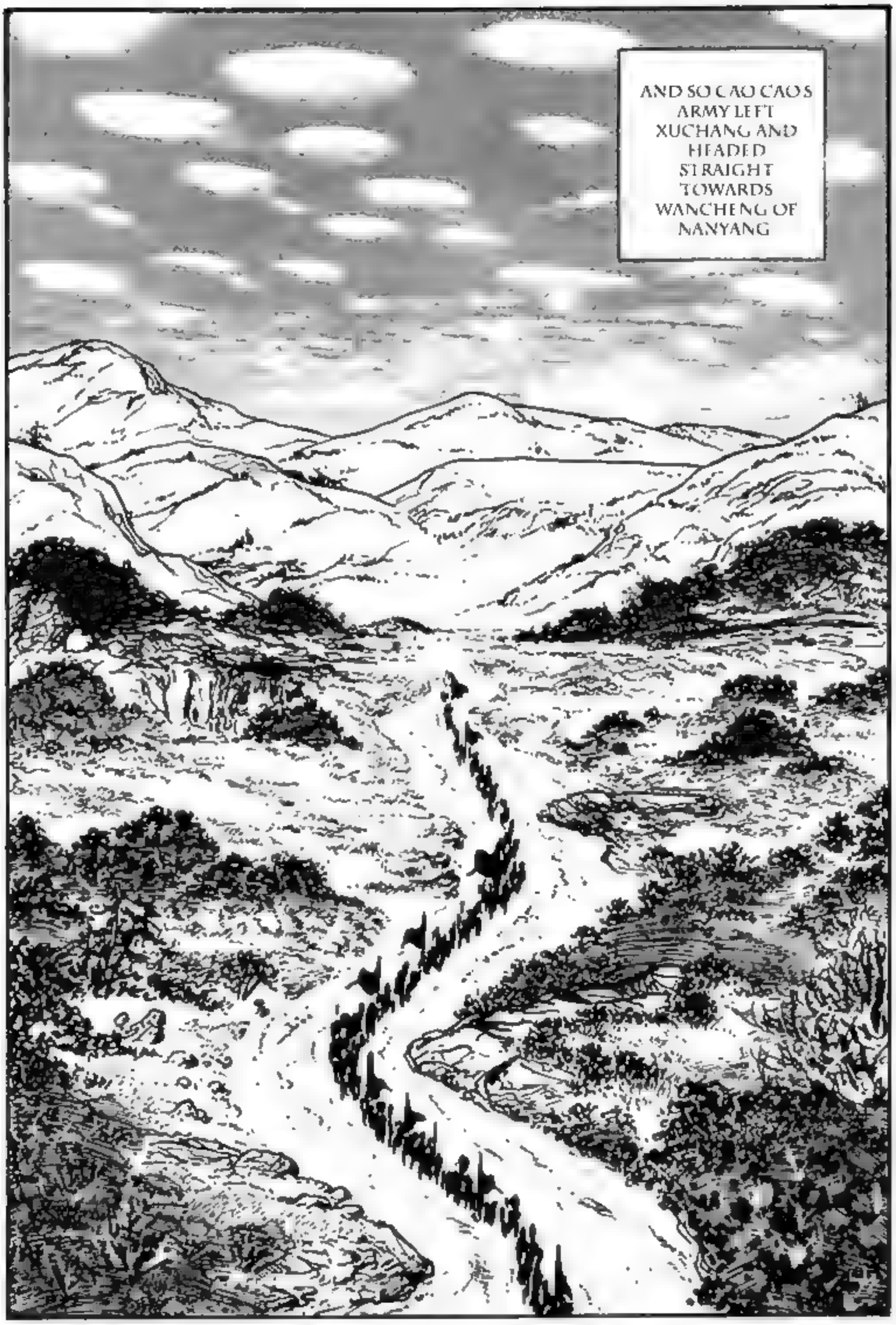
LU BU WAS OVERJOYED BEYOND ALL WORDS




HE WAS THAT HAPPY?
YES, SIR.


ALRIGHT, MAKE PREPARATIONS TO ATTACK WANCHENG AT ONCE.


YES.
WITH THIS, SIR HAS NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT LU BU.


AND SO CAO CAO'S ARMY LEFT XUCHANG AND HEADED STRAIGHT TOWARDS WANCHENG OF NANYANG


NANYANG,
WANCHENG


DID THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR PLANS...?


MOST LIKELY, SIR...


YES...
WHAT!? CAO CAO IS LEADING AN ARMY OF 150,000 TO ATTACK WANCHENG!?

IF CAO CAO HAS COME OUT TO DIRECTLY COMMAND HIS FORCES, THE ENEMIES ARE MOST LIKELY ALL ELITE BATTLE-HARDENED SOLDIERS. OUR CHANCES ARE SLIM TO NONE.

DO YOU THINK WE STAND ANY CHANCE OF WINNING?

YOU MEAN TO JUST GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!?

SIR, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO SURRENDER.

THEN WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO!?

AS LONG AS WE MANAGE TO LAY LOW, ANOTHER CHANCE WILL SURELY COME AGAIN.

HMM...

BUT WE MUST ACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SIR.

カンポ
カンポ

HMM?

I AM A MESSEN-
GER FROM
WANCHENG.

HALT.


ALRIGHT, COME ALONG.


I HAVE COME TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO CHANCELLOR CAO CAO.


I AM JIA XU, A MESSENGER SENT BY ZHANG XIU OF WANCHENG.
YOU MAY SPEAK NOW.

WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF OPPOSING SIR IN ANY WAY.

SO WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE?

YES.

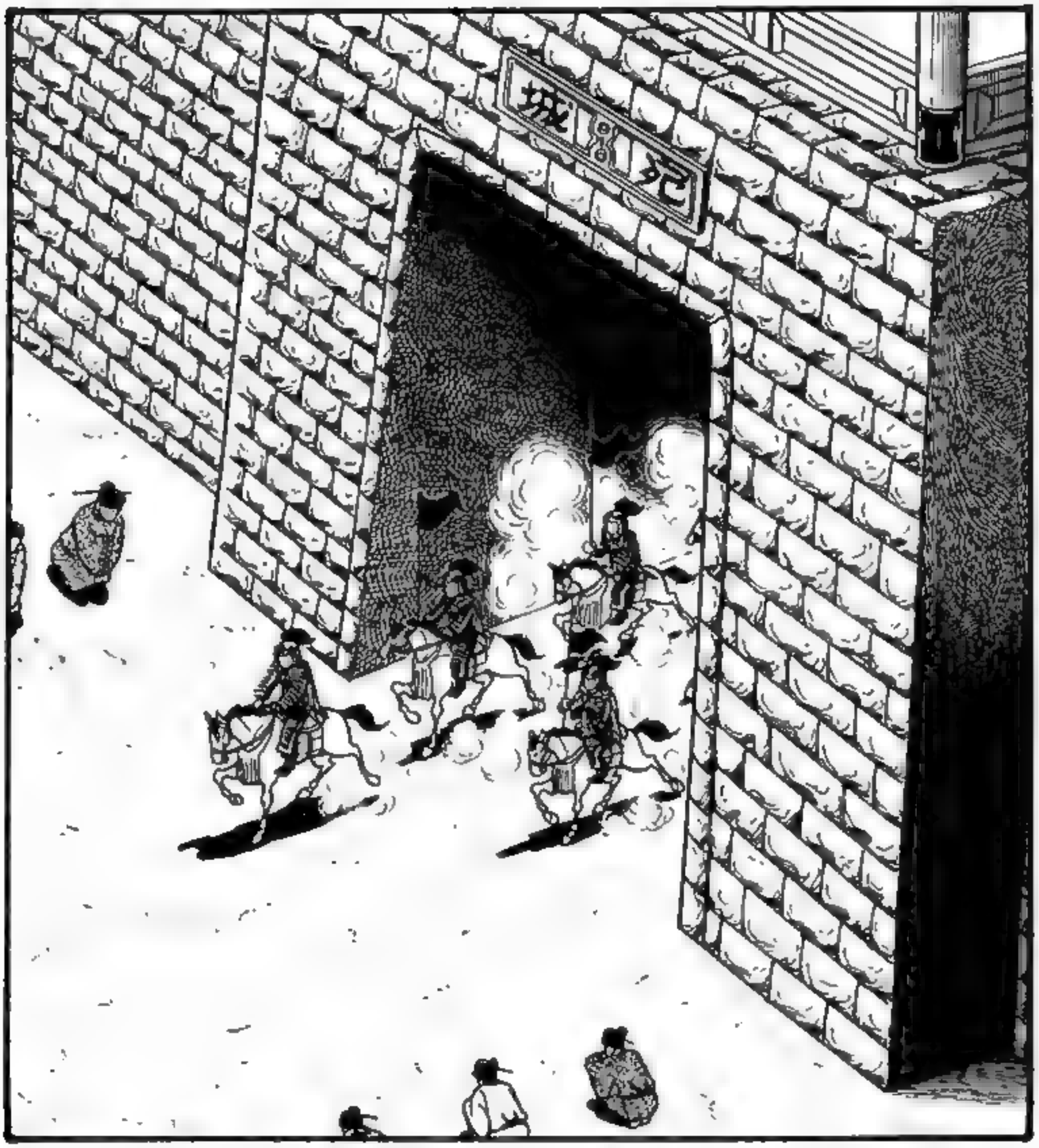
YOU'RE SURRENDERING COMPLETELY?

WE SHALL GLADLY HAND OVER THE CASTLE TO SIR AND DO ANYTHING SIR ORDERS US TO.

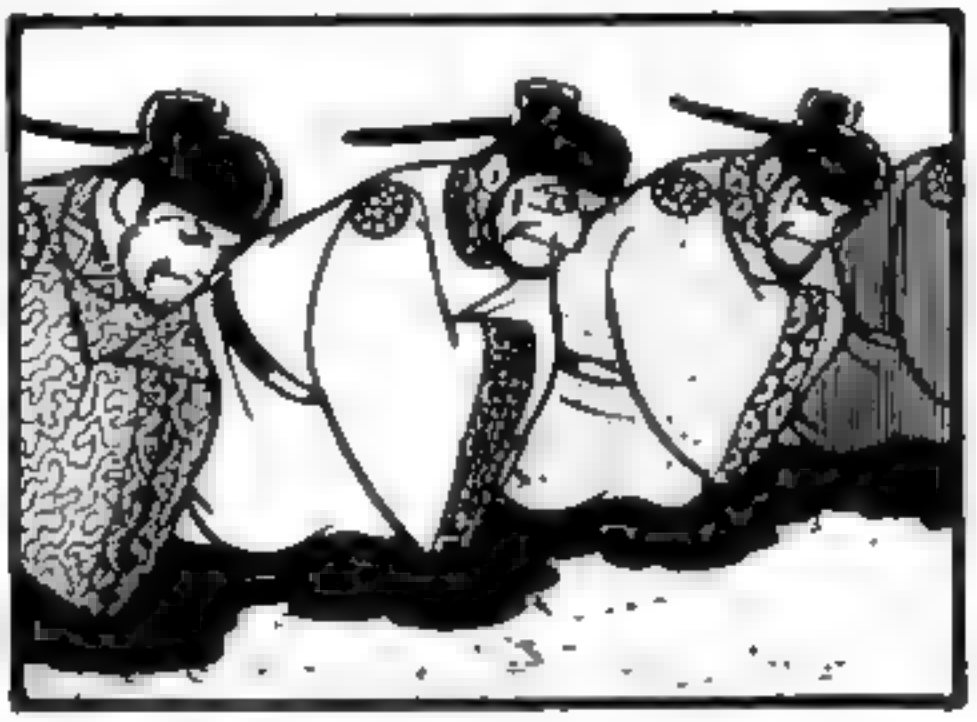
WELL IF THAT'S HOW YOUR SIDE FEELS, THEN THERE IS NO NEED TO NEEDLESSLY SHED BLOOD.

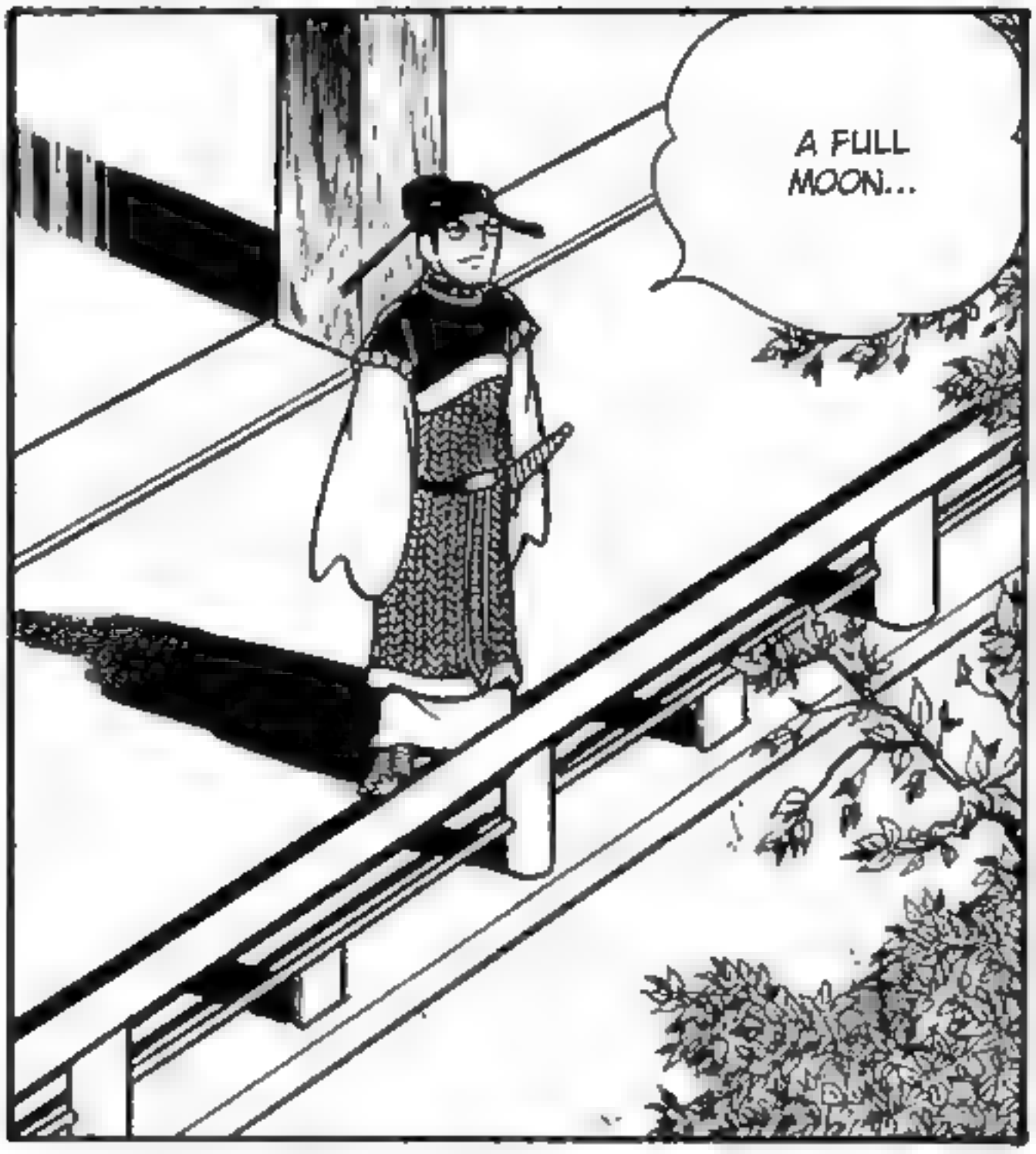
YES, OF COURSE, SIR.

GOOD. THEN MY ARMY WILL IMMEDIATELY MARCH IN TO WANCHENG.



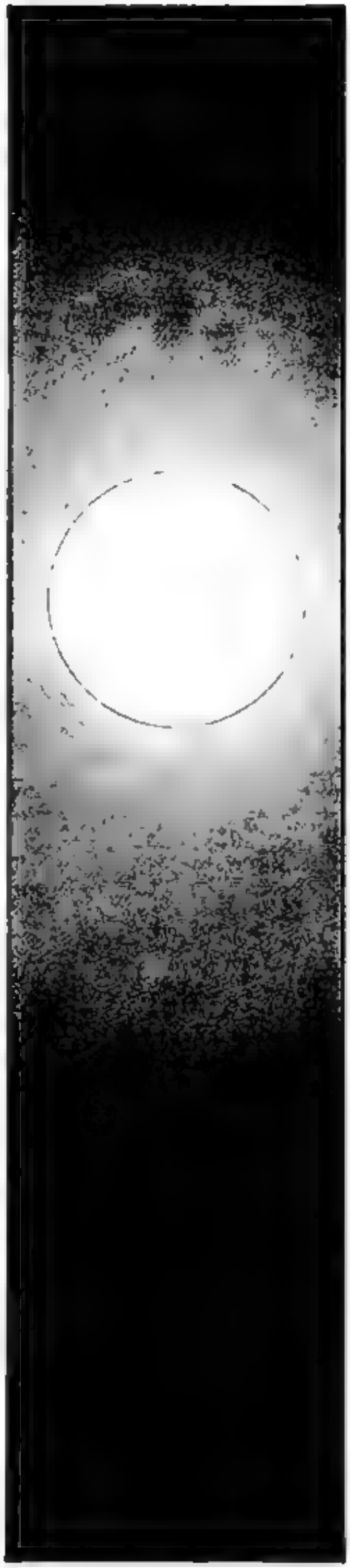





A FULL MOON...


HM?






IT SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM OVER THERE...


WHAT'S THIS MUSIC?



BEAUT-
IFU...

♪ ♪

AH!

PLEASE PARDON MY INTRUSION. I COULD NOT HELP BUT TRY TO FIND WHERE SUCH BEAUTIFUL MUSIC WAS COMING FROM.

MY NAME IS CAO CAO. YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID OF ME FOR I AM NO SUSPICIOUS MAN.

DECEASED? THEN YOU ARE A WIDOW...?

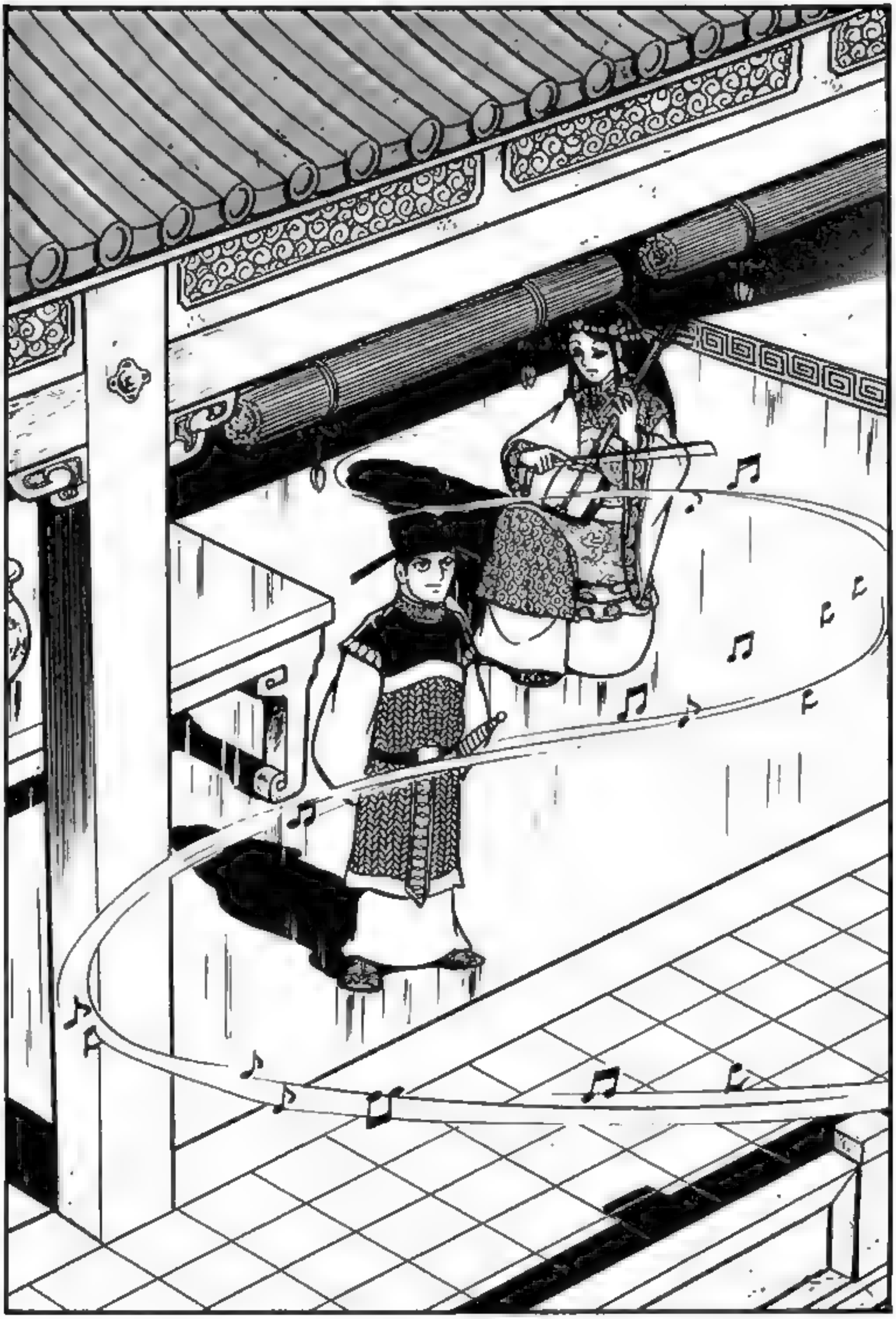
I AM THE WIFE OF THE NOW DECEASED ZHANG JI, WHO IS THE UNCLE OF THE LORD OF THIS CASTLE, ZHANG XIU.

AND YOU ARE...?

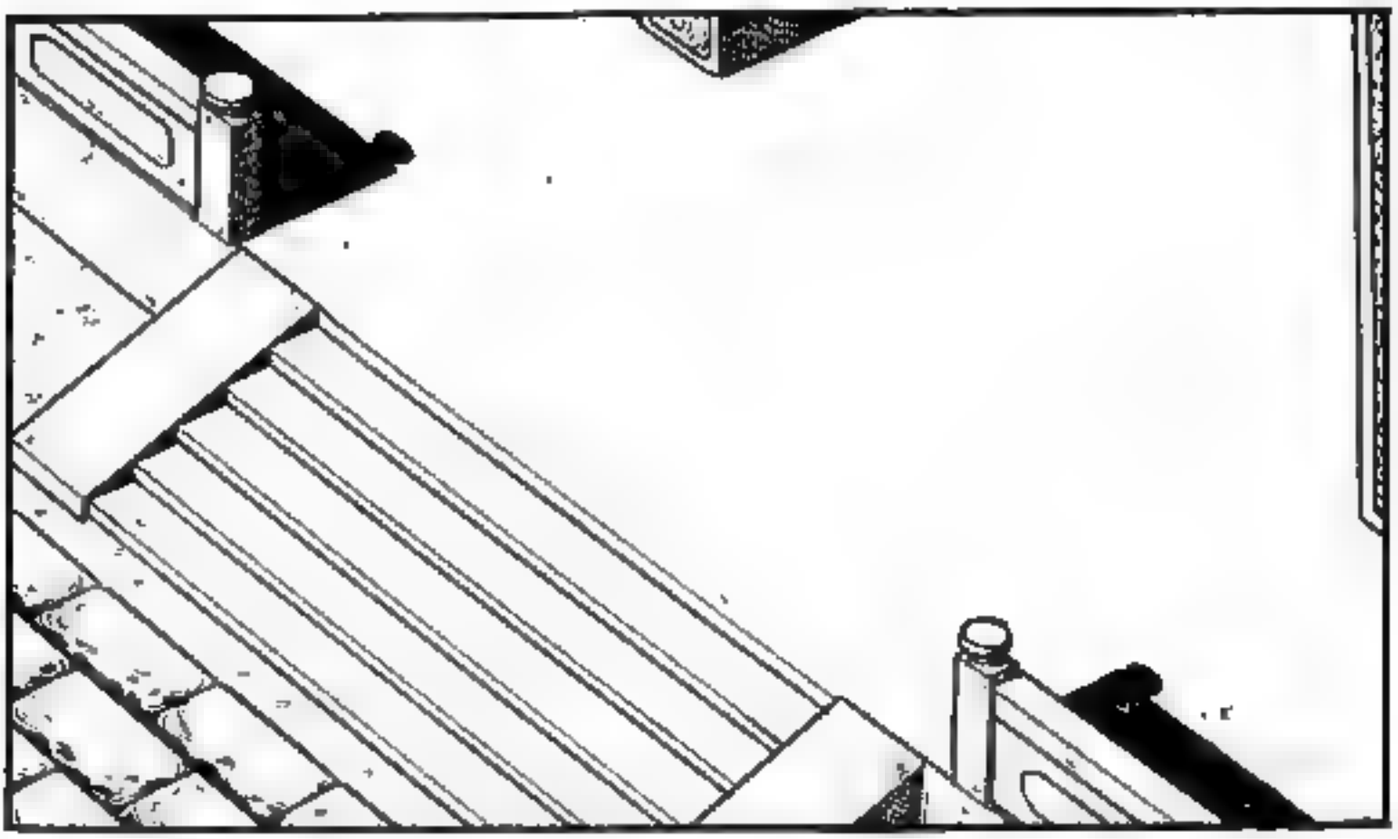
YES...

YES, SIR.

IF YOU DO NOT MIND, COULD YOU PLEASE KEEP ON PLAYING THAT BEAUTIFUL MELODY?



# ZHANG XIU'S SCHEME





AH, JIA XU. WHAT IS IT?

SIR!

AND WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT?

I HAVE HEARD SOMETHING QUITE INTERESTING ABOUT CAO CAO.

*NOT ONLY DOES HE PARADE AROUND WANCHENG AS IF HE OWNED THE PLACE, BUT HE NOW EVEN DARES TO LAY HANDS ON MY FAMILY'S WOMEN!?*

*WHAT!?*

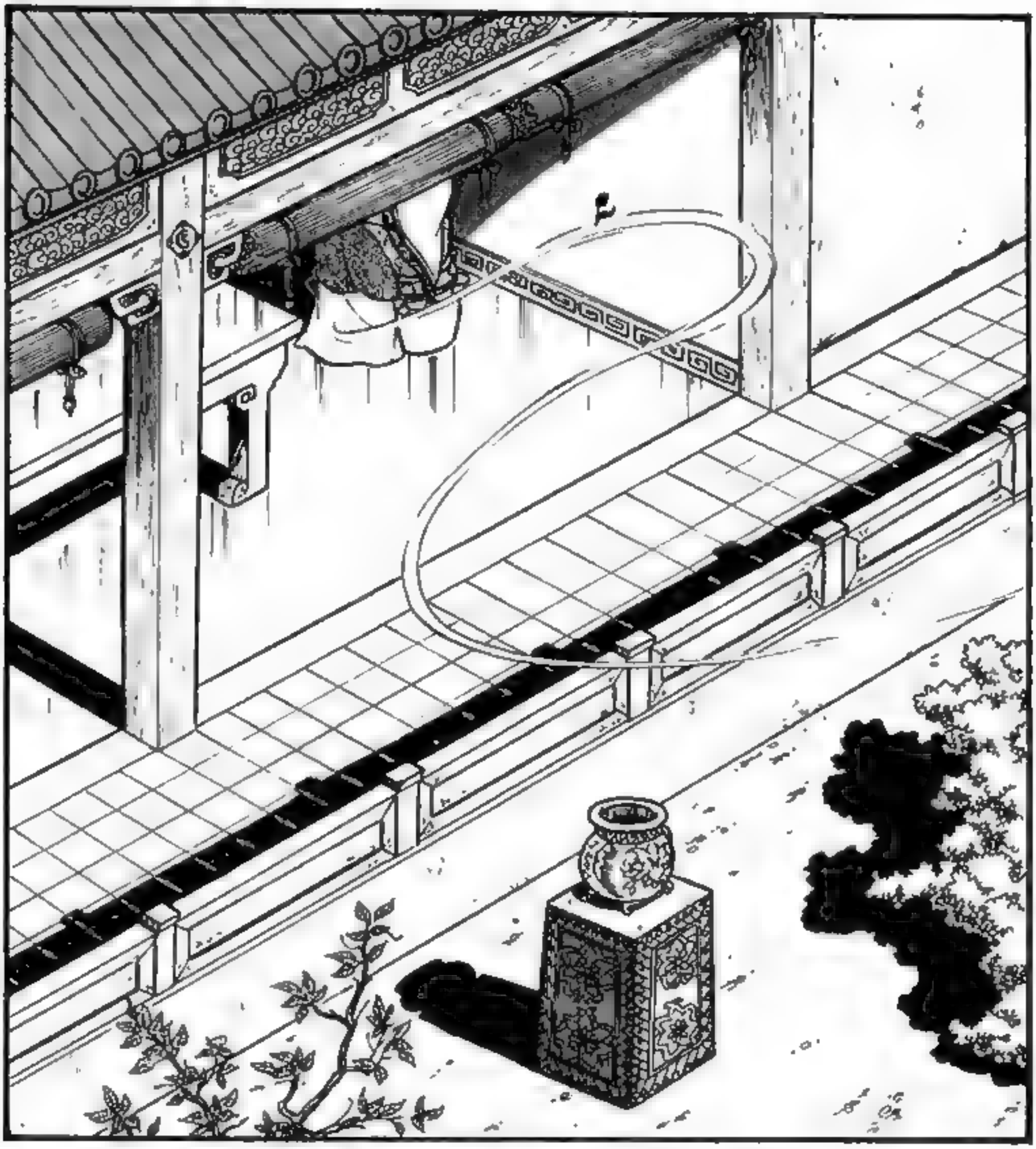
IT SEEMS THAT HE HAS TAKEN QUITE A LIKING TO THE LATE ZHANG JI'S WIFE, LADY ZHOU, SO MUCH THAT HE SPENDS ALL HIS DAYS AT THE ZHOU FAMILY'S RESIDENCES.


THIS IS A SURE SIGN THAT CAO CAO HAS LET HIS GUARD DOWN.


PLEASE CALM DOWN, SIR.


WE MUST USE THIS CHANCE TO OUR FULL ADVANTAGE.


YES, YES...
I PROPOSE THAT WE...
WHISPER WHISPER







MY LORD!

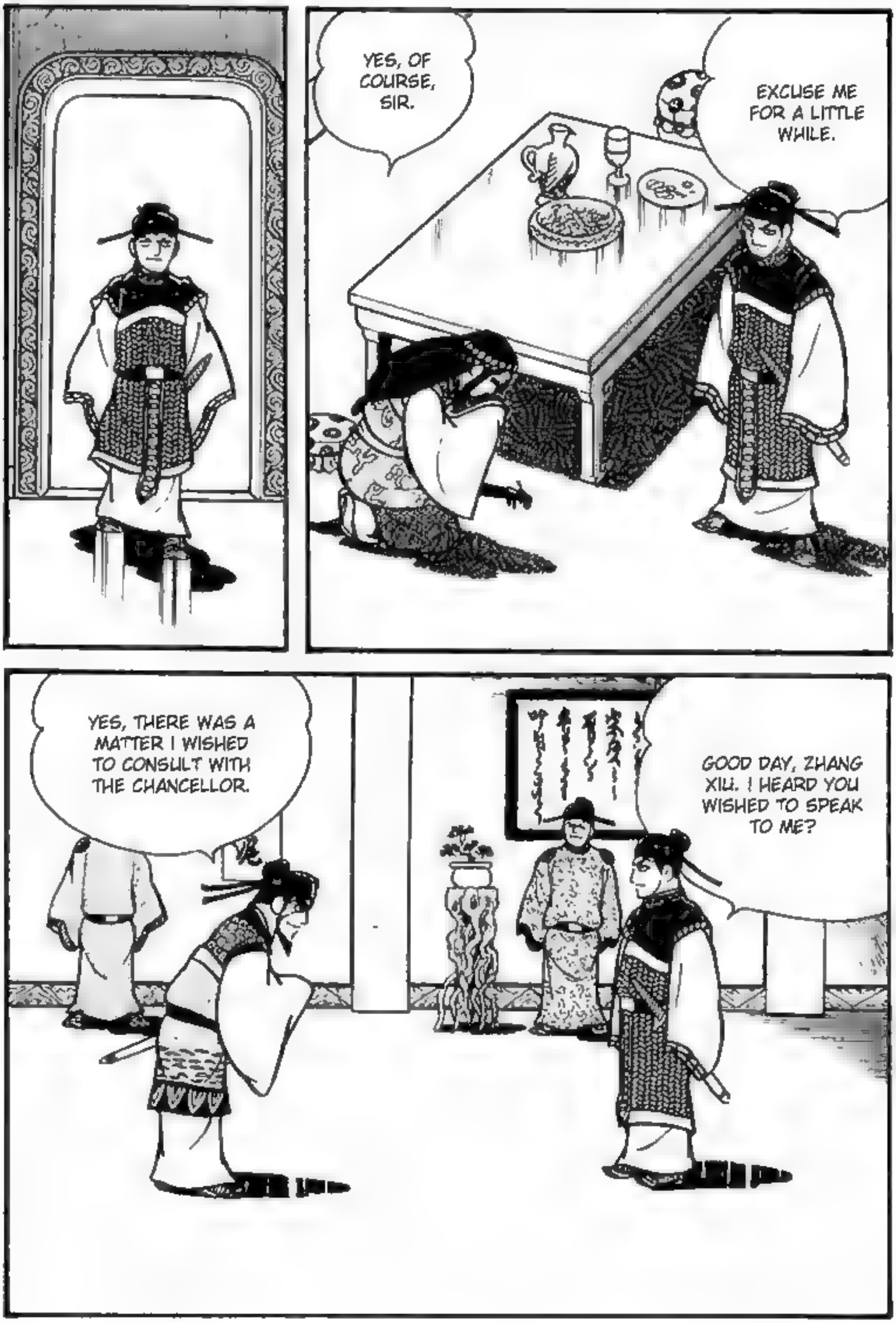
BUT ZHANG XIU WISHES TO URGENTLY TALK WITH SIR.

PLEASE PARDON MY INTRUSION, MY LORD.

AH, DIAN WEI. DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO COME HERE UNLESS IT'S AN EMERGENCY?

WELL, I CAN'T JUST REFUSE A MEETING WITH THIS CASTLE'S LORD.

ZHANG XIU...?


YES, OF COURSE, SIR.
EXCUSE ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
YES, THERE WAS A MATTER I WISHED TO CONSULT WITH THE CHANCELLOR.
GOOD DAY, ZHANG XIU. I HEARD YOU WISHED TO SPEAK TO ME?

I DO NOT KNOW IF I HAVE LOST THE RESPECT OF MY MEN, BUT LATELY THERE HAVE BEEN MANY DESERTERS IN MY ARMY.

YES, I'M AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO DO...

*THAT'S* THE URGENT MATTER YOU WISHED TO SPEAK TO ME ABOUT?

YES, I KNOW THAT, BUT...

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? JUST TIGHTEN THE SECURITY AT THE GATES AND EXECUTE ANY DESERTERS THAT YOU HAPPEN TO CATCH.

YOUR SOLDIERS ARE YOURS TO COMMAND.

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.

I WAS WORRIED THAT IT MIGHT BE OUT OF LINE FOR ME TO DEPLOY MY SOLDIERS HOWEVER I WANT IN AND AROUND THE CASTLE SINCE I HAD SURRENDERED TO SIR.

OF COURSE NOT. DO AS YOU WISH.

SO SIR DOES NOT MIND IF I INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CASTLE GUARDS?

.....

GOOD. NOW HE WON'T BECOME SUSPICIOUS IF HE HEARS OF OUR ARMY MOVING AROUND.

BUT THE PROBLEM OF CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODY-GUARD, DIAN WEI, REMAINS.

IT WENT VERY WELL. CAO CAO SEEMED MORE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS NEW WOMAN THAN ME.

HOW DID IT GO SIR?

YES...

DIAN WEI IS A MOST FEARSOME WARRIOR. AS LONG AS HE STANDS ON GUARD, GETTING TO CAO CAO SHALL BE NEAR-IMPOSSIBLE.

ARE YOU THERE, HU CHE ER!?

DO YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO FIGHT AND WIN AGAINST DIAN WEI?

YES, MY LORD?

THEN HOW CAN WE TAKE CARE OF HIM...?

HMM, SO HE'S THAT STRONG ...?

I AM ASHAMED TO ADMIT THAT I WOULD NOT STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM, MY LORD.

IS THAT TRUE!?

I HAVE HEARD THAT DIAN WEI IS QUITE FOND OF DRINKING. PERHAPS IF WE GET HIM DRUNK FIRST, THEN IT MAY BE EASY TO DISPOSE OF HIM...

AND AFTER HE HAS PASSED OUT DRUNK, WE SHALL TAKE AWAY HIS WEAPONS SO HE IS OF NO THREAT.

THEN LET US HOLD A BANQUET IN HIS HONOUR AND FORCE HIM TO DRINK AS MUCH AS HE CAN.

YES. DIAN WEI WITHOUT HIS WEAPONS WILL BE A TIGER WITHOUT FANGS AND CLAWS.

THAT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF HIM.

I AM HERE TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE FROM ZHANG XIU TO SIR.

AHH!

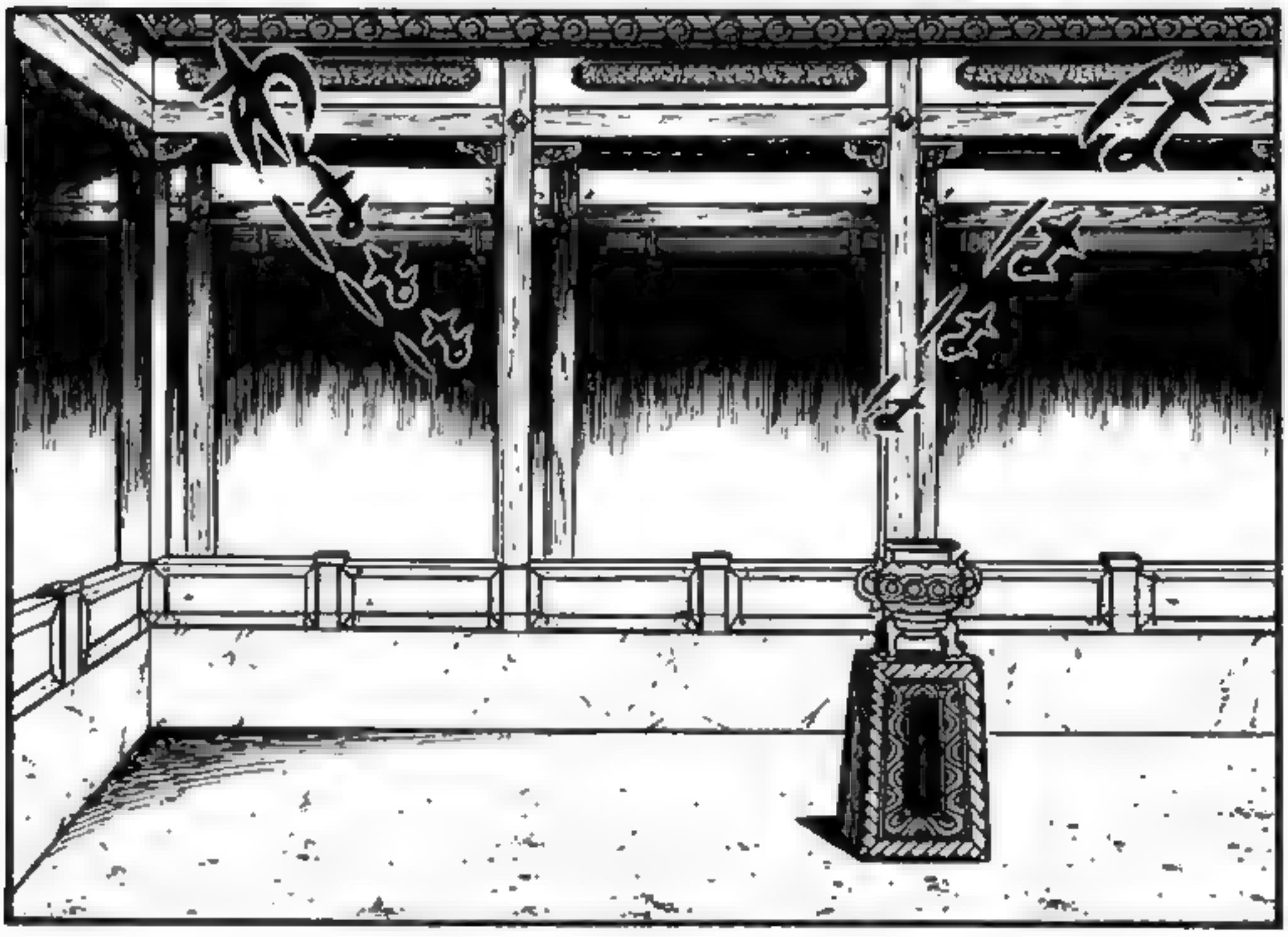
YES, I AM DIAN WEI.

EXCUSE ME SIR, BUT MAY YOU BE DIAN WEI?


WELL, I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR HIS CONCERN. TELL HIM THAT I AM OFF-DUTY TOMORROW SO I WILL GO THEN.


YES, I SHALL SEND THE WORD TO MY LORD IMMEDIATELY.


YES, SIR. MY LORD WISHES TO PAY HIS RESPECTS TO THE MIGHTY DIAN WEI WHO TIRELESSLY WORKS DAY AFTER DAY.
AN INVITATION TO A BANQUET IN MY HONOUR?



AND I MUST THANK SIR FOR THIS MOST ENJOYABLE BANQUET.

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR OF MINE TO SHARE THIS DRINK WITH THE MOST FEARSOME WARRIOR IN THE LANDS.

PLEASE, DRINK TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

THEN PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ESCORT SIR BACK.

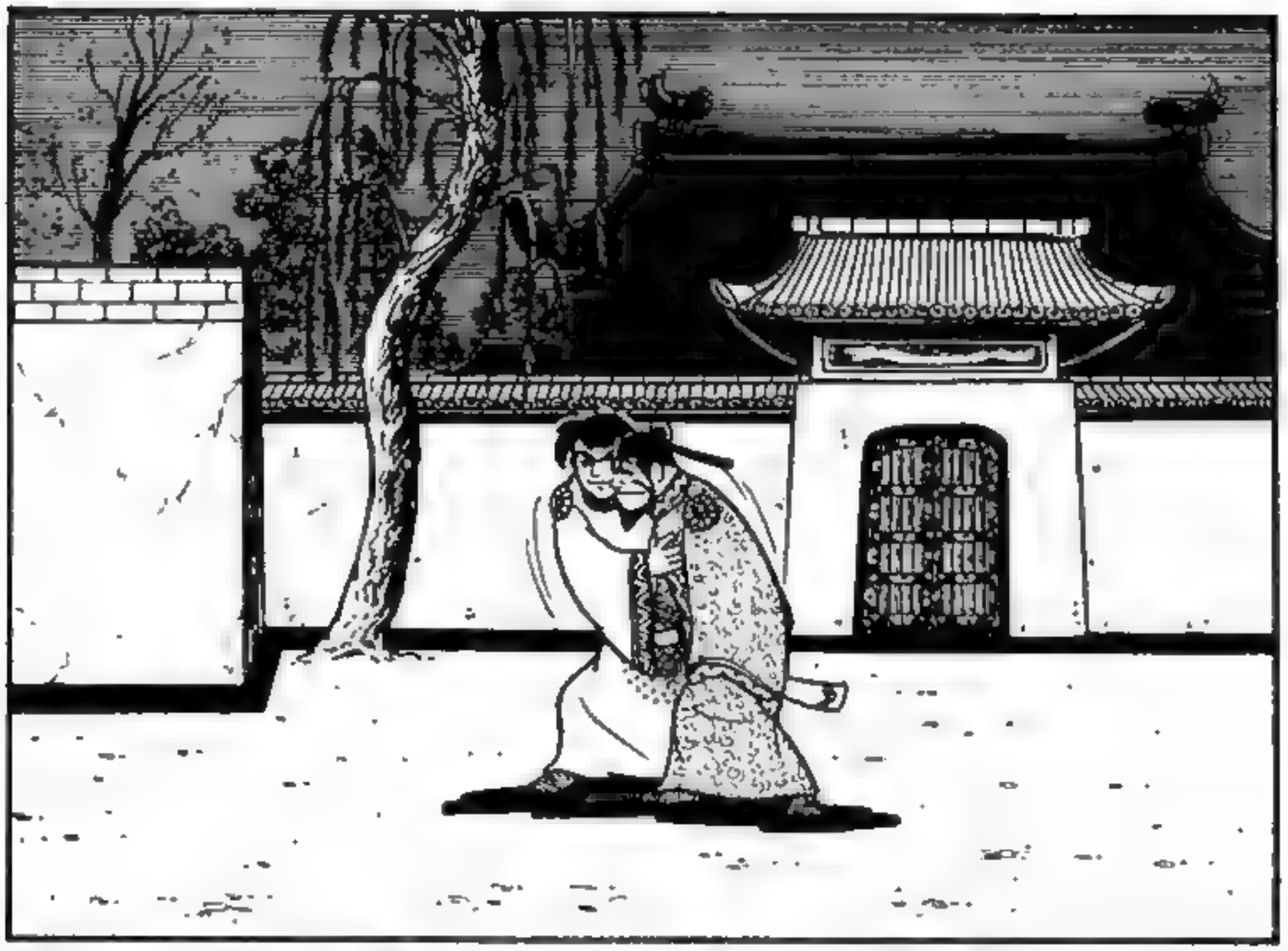
AHHH... I MAY BE A HEAVY DRINKER BUT EVEN I'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK FOR TONIGHT.

YES, MY LORD?

HU CHE ER!

YES, SIR.

ESCORT DIAN WEI SAFELY BACK TO HIS RESIDENCES.





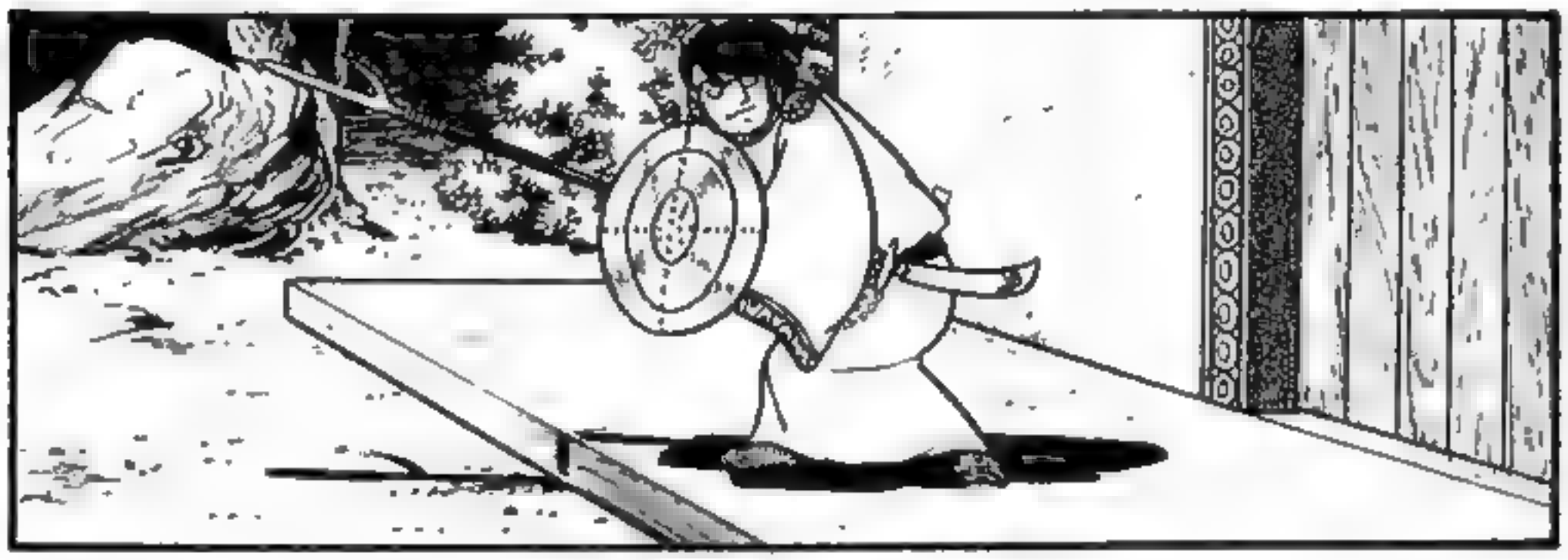

AH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
SIR, WE ARE HERE AT YOUR ROOM.


ZZZZZZ!











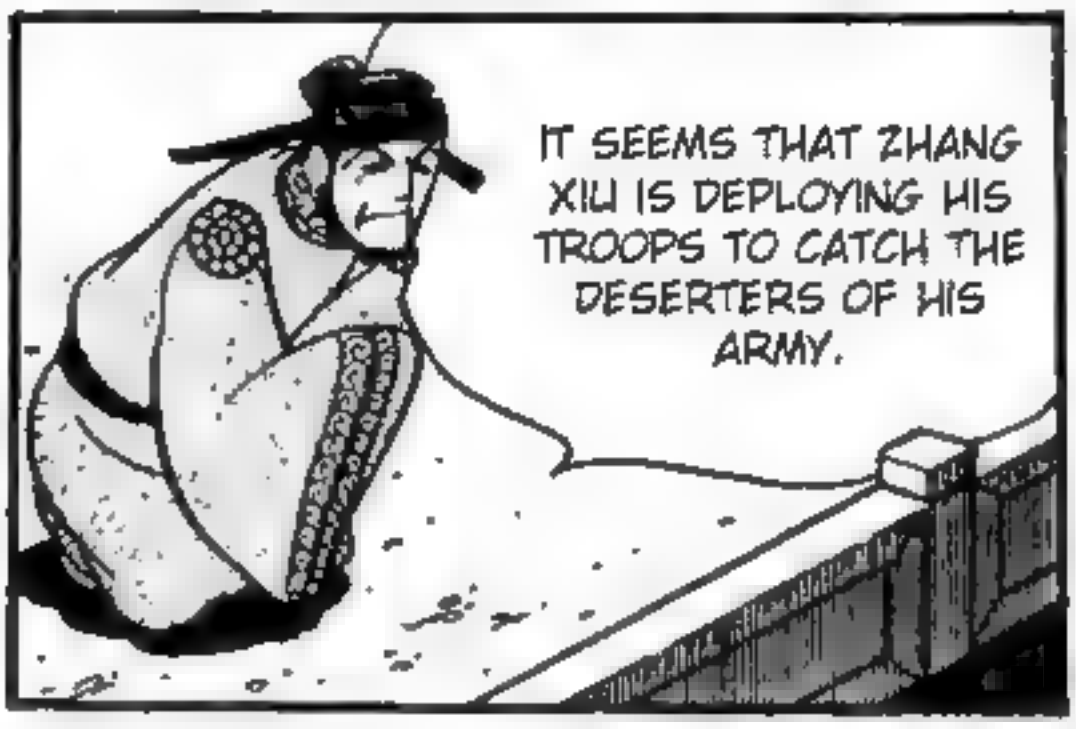


HMM?
YES, SIR?
SOME-BODY!




YES, RIGHT AWAY, SIR.
GO FIND OUT THE CAUSE OF THESE LOUD HOOFSTEPS LATE IN THE NIGHT.


PLEASE POUR ME ANOTHER GLASS, LADY ZHOU.


IT SEEMS THAT ZHANG XIU IS DEPLOYING HIS TROOPS TO CATCH THE DESERTERS OF HIS ARMY.



SO ZHANG XIU IS FINALLY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MATTER.

I SEE.

♪

OF COURSE.

CARE TO GRACE ME WITH ANOTHER PIECE, LADY ZHOU?

♪

THE END




WHA!?


Y-YES, SIR.
BRING ME MY ARMOUR!


W-WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?

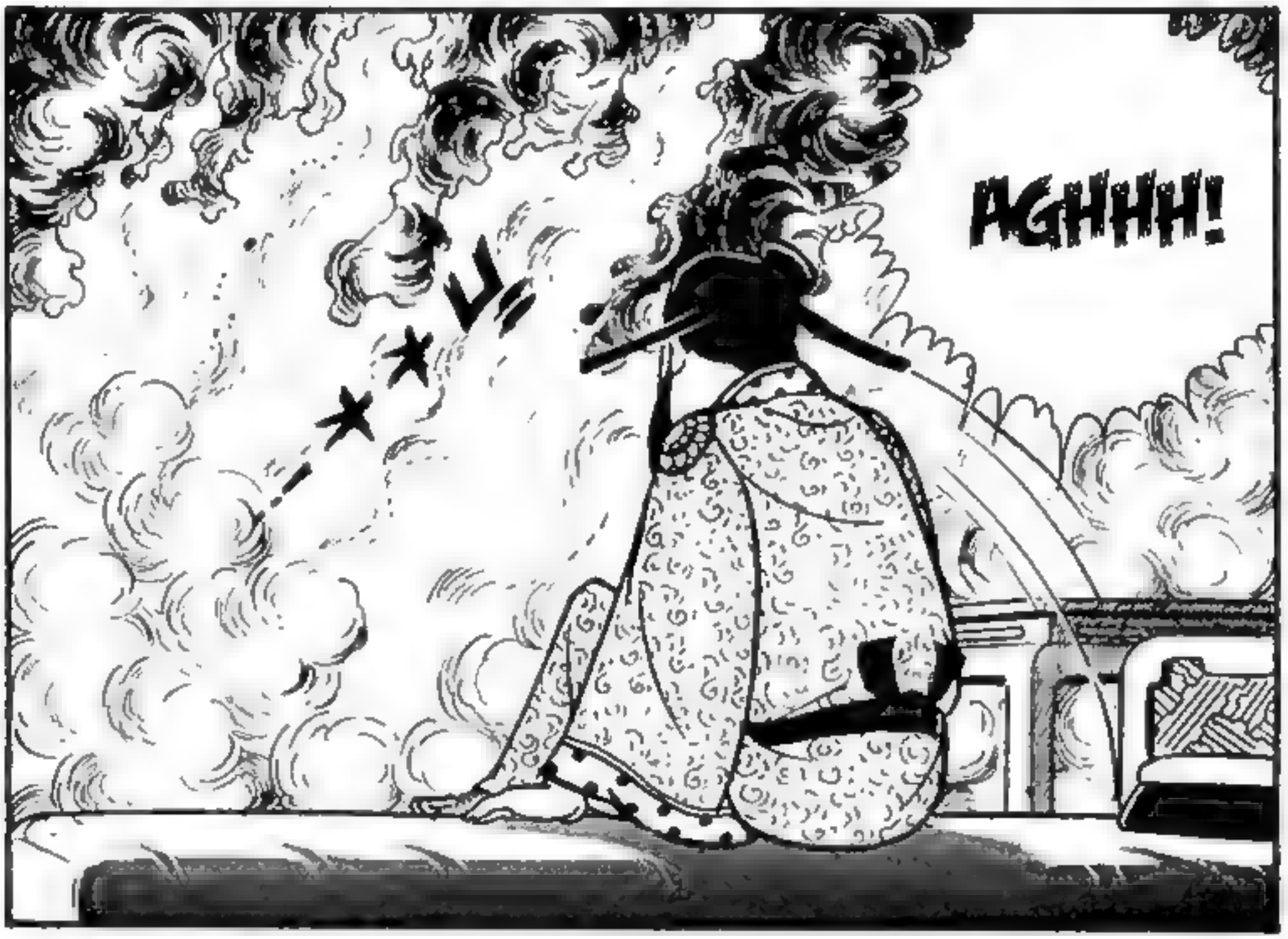

DIAN WEI! DIAN WEI!




COUGH
COUGH


HMM?


ZZZZZ...


AGHHH!

HMM!?

WHERE DID MY SHIELD AND WEAPONS GO!?

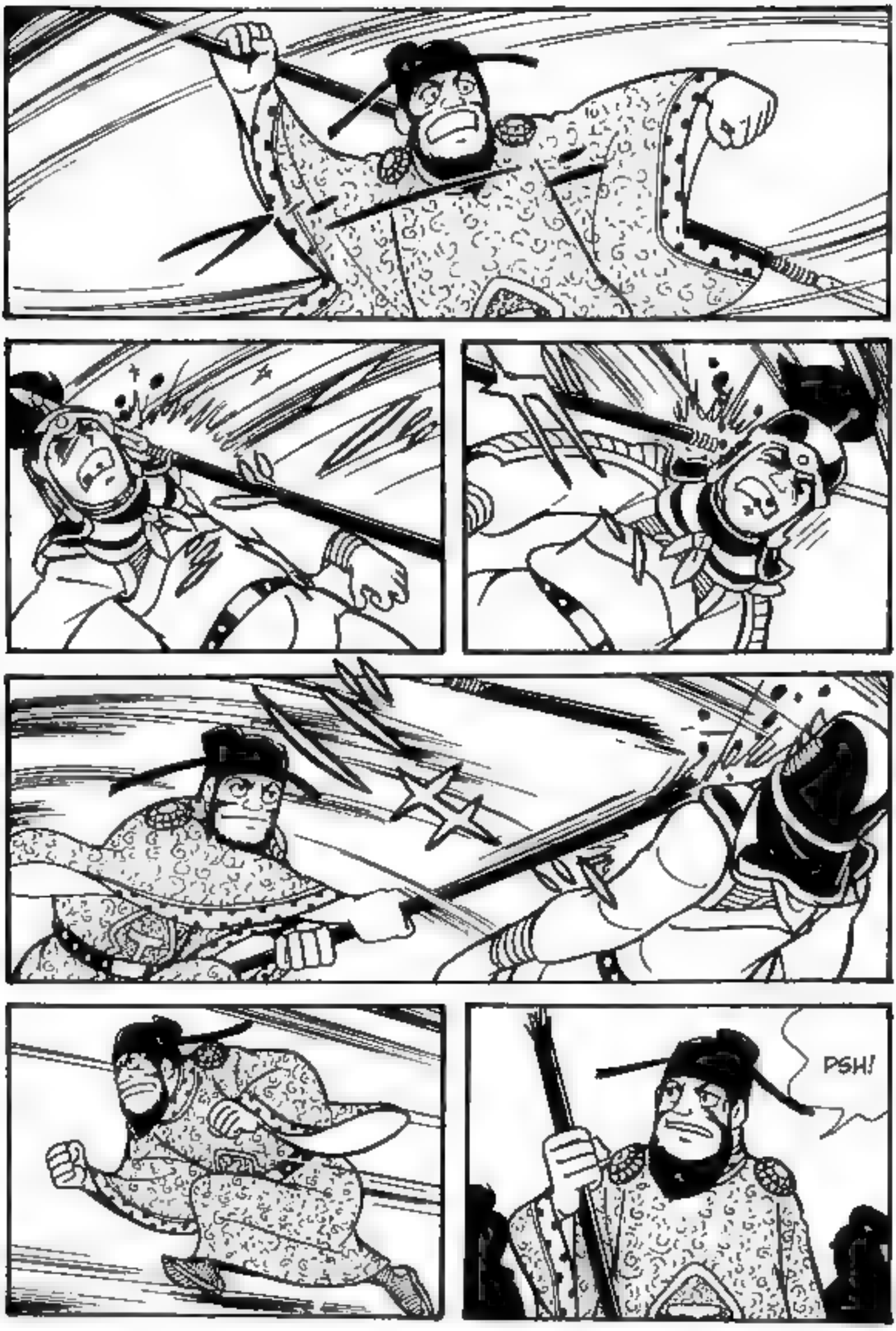
AHHH!

SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS...!

AHH, IT'S DIAN WEI! GET HIM!

YOU BASTARDS, I WON'T LET YOU TAKE A STEP INSIDE MY LORD'S RESIDENCES!




PSH!









THE HELL IS UP WITH THEIR FLIMSY SWORDS AND SPEARS!? ARE THEY MADE OF WOOD OR SOMETHING!?



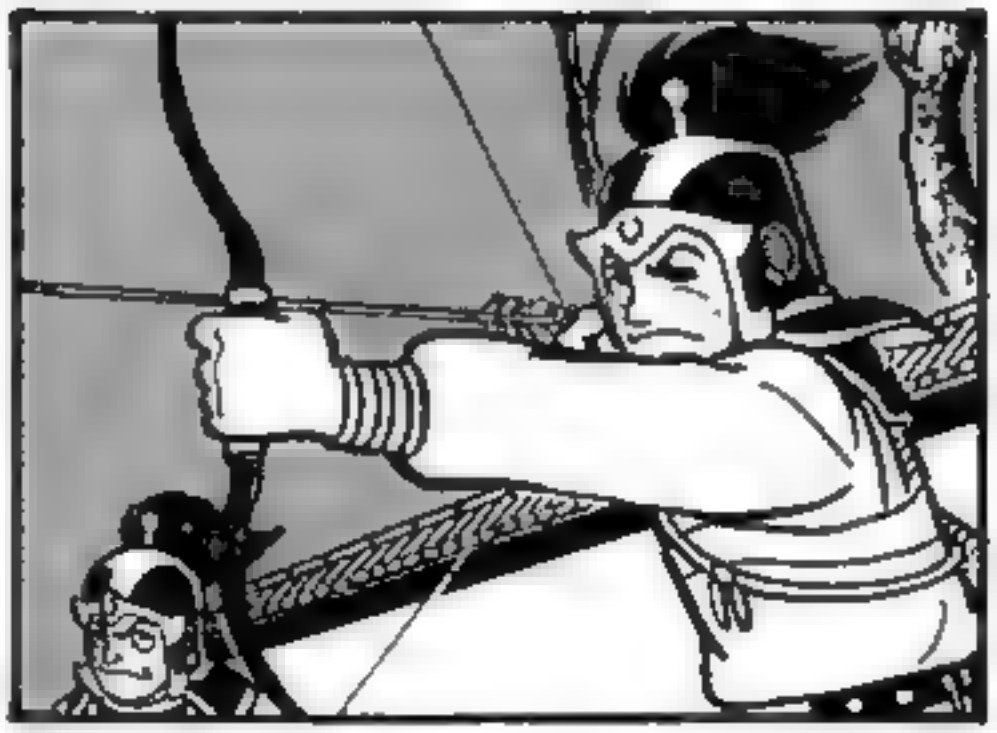


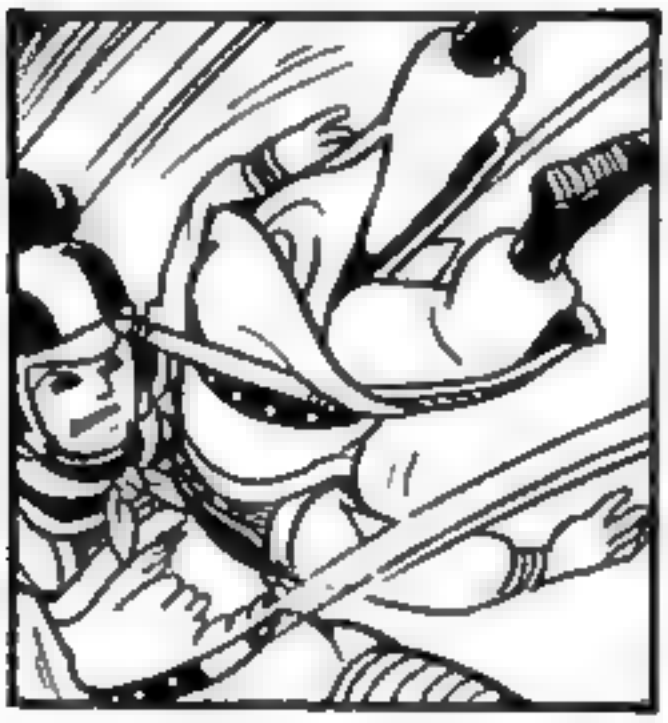



ATTACK FROM AFAR WITH ARROWS!


H-HE'S TOO MUCH FOR US TO HANDLE DIRECTLY...!



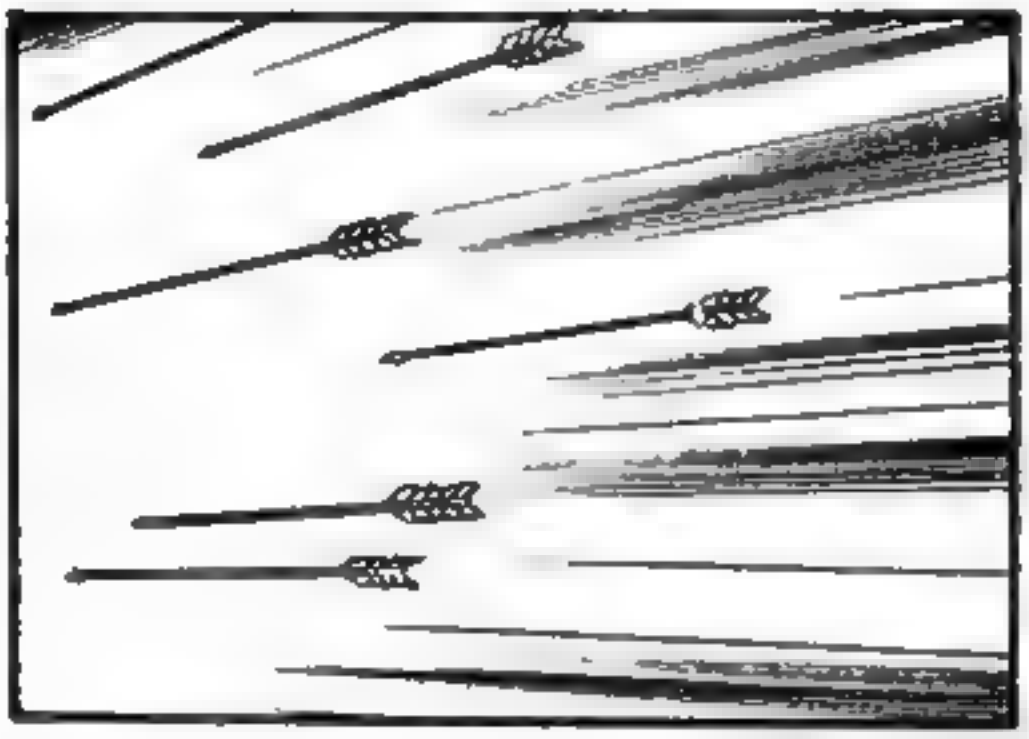














H-HE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE HUMAN TO STILL STAND AFTER THAT...!

AGHH!

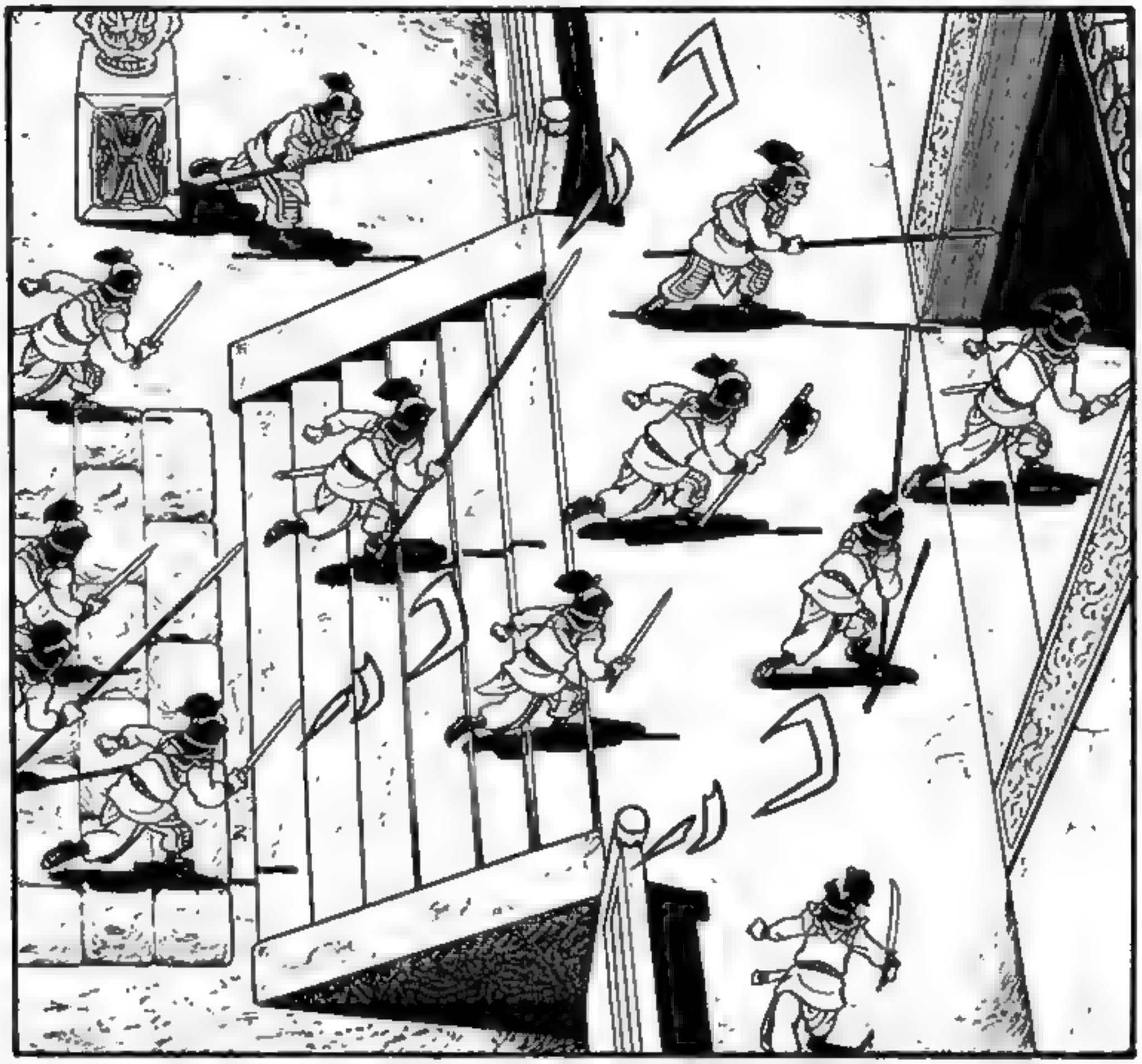
APPROACH WITH CAUTION.

WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM...

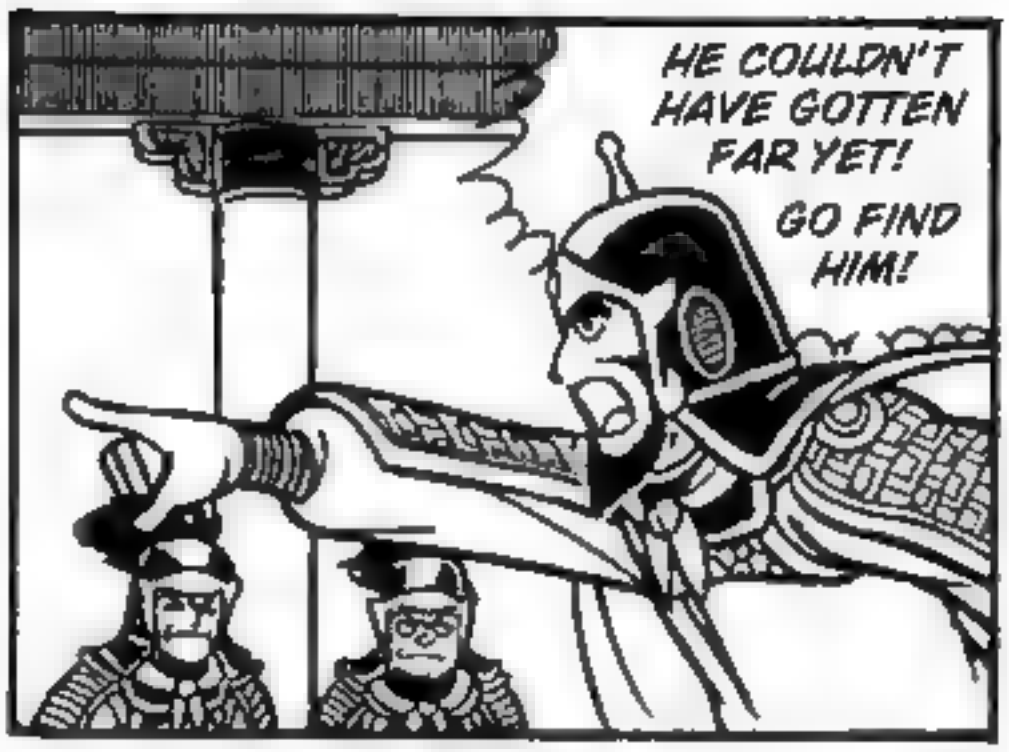
H-HE'S DEAD!

ALRIGHT, LET US CHARGE IN AND KILL CAO CAO!

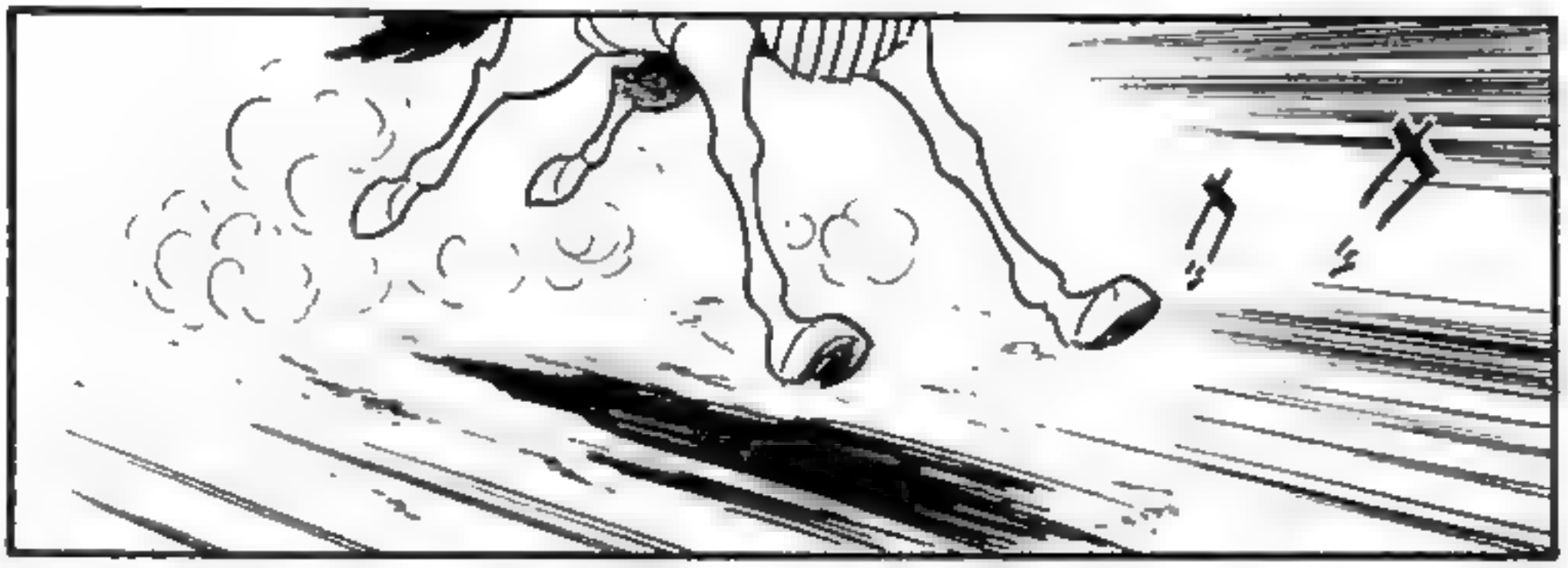
WHAT A MAN, TO DIE STANDING LIKE THAT...




THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PERSON LEFT HERE!


HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR YET!
GO FIND HIM!

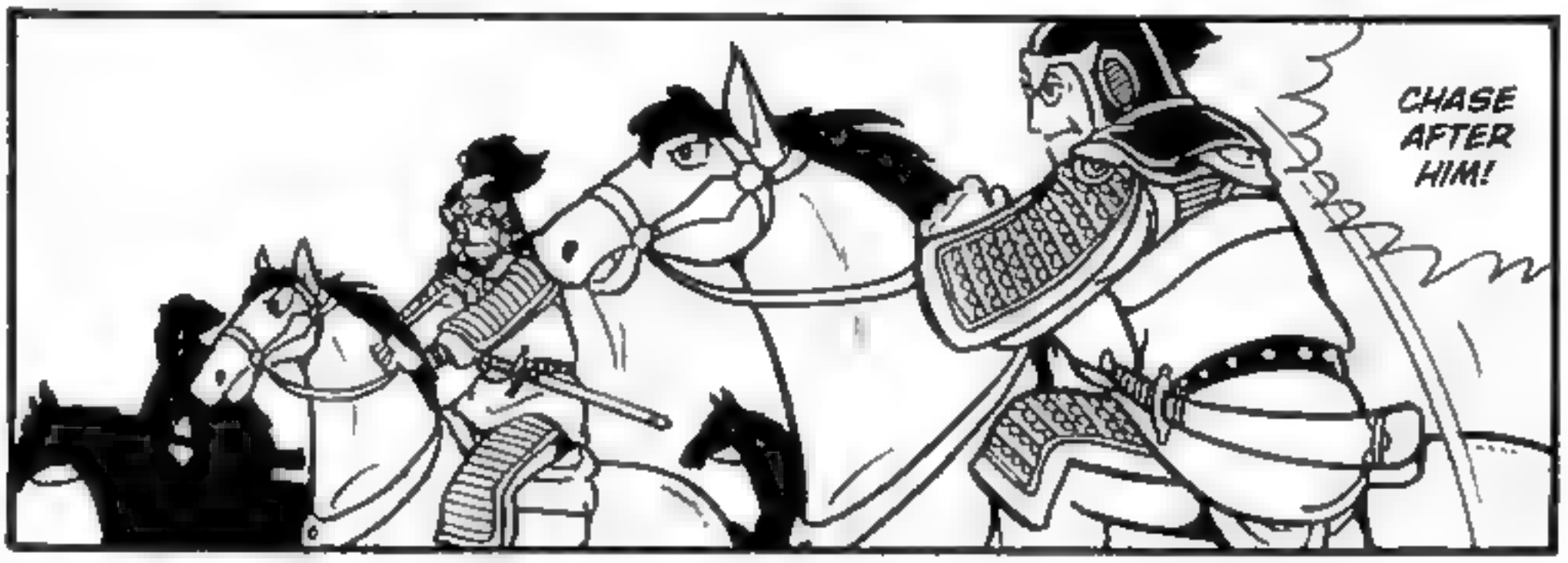

CURSES! HE MUST HAVE MADE HIS ESCAPE WHILE WE WERE BUSY DEALING WITH DIAN WEI!




AHH!



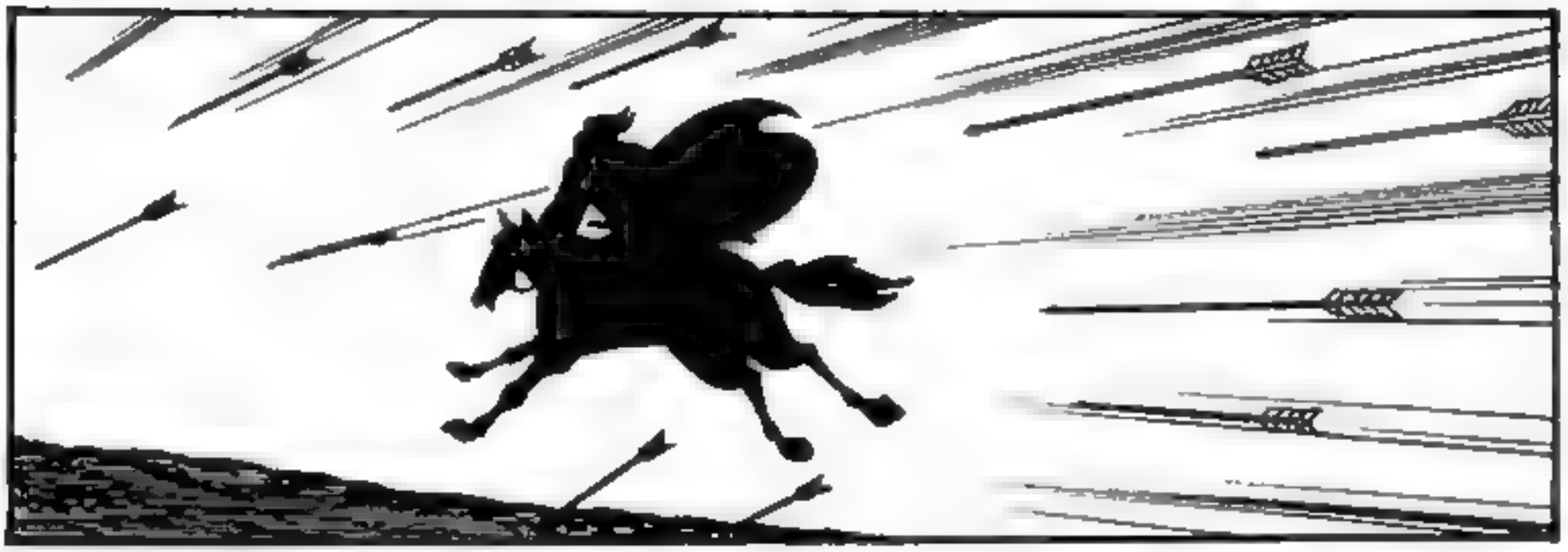

LOOK, SOMEONE'S RUNNING AWAY OVER THERE!

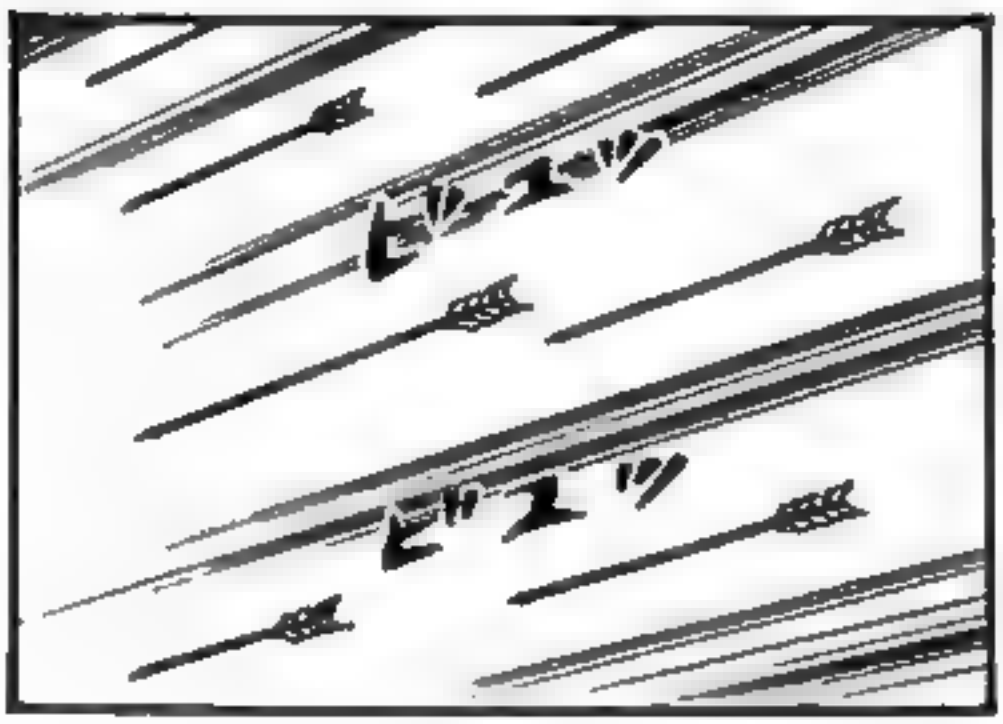

CHASE AFTER HIM!







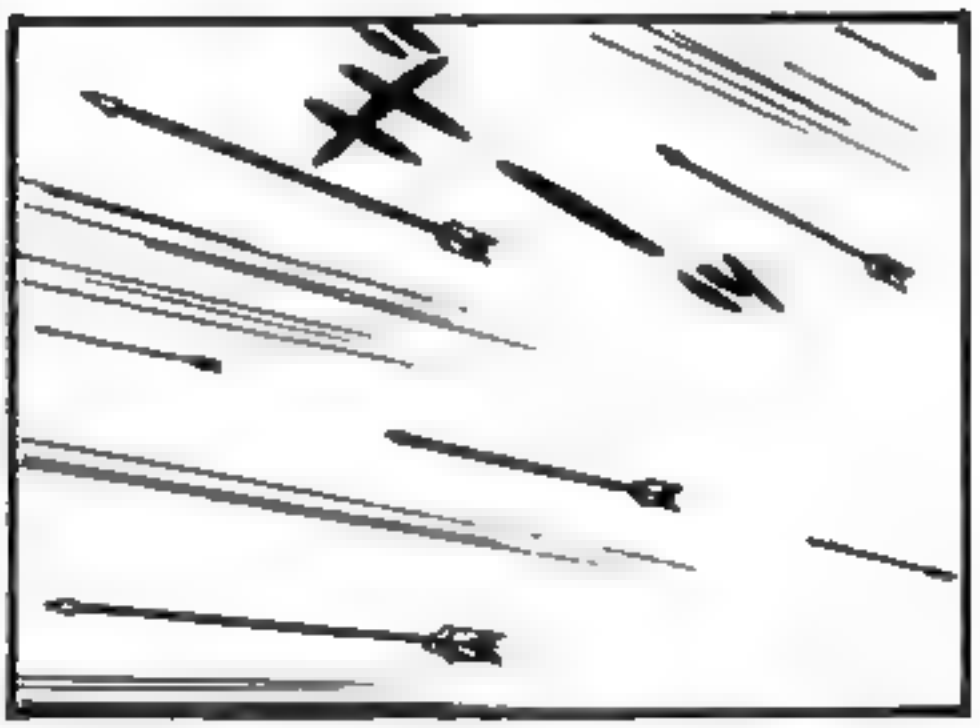



ビュ〜ン
ビュ〜ン



AHH!











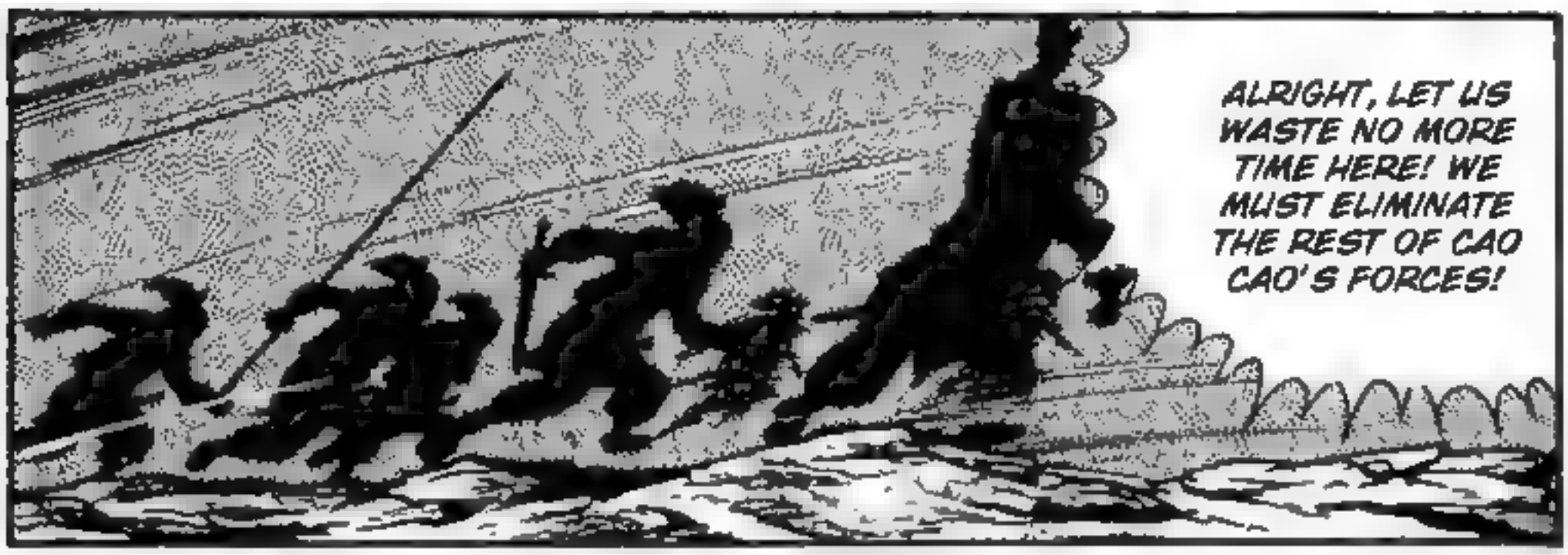

HE FELL INTO THE RIVER!

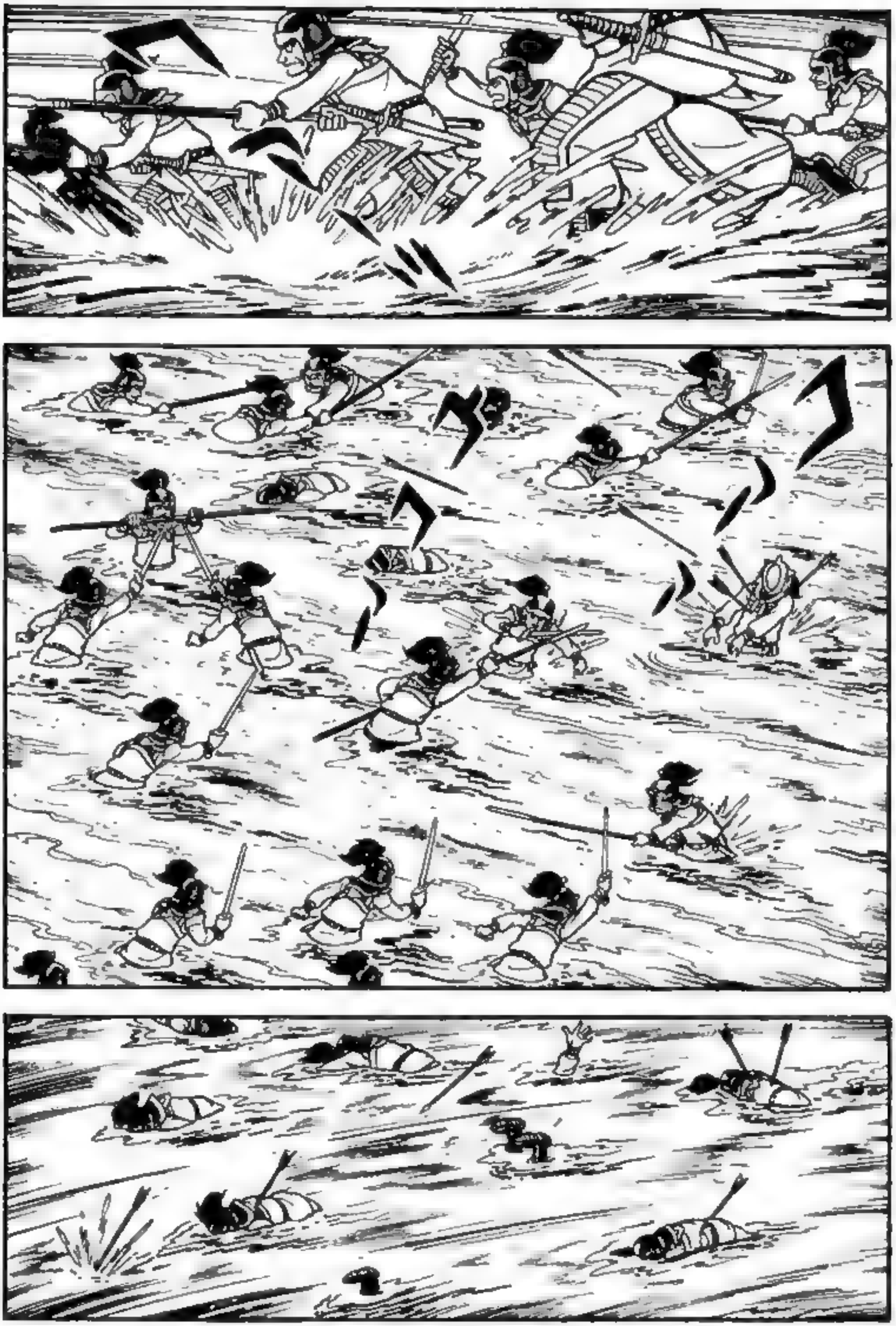


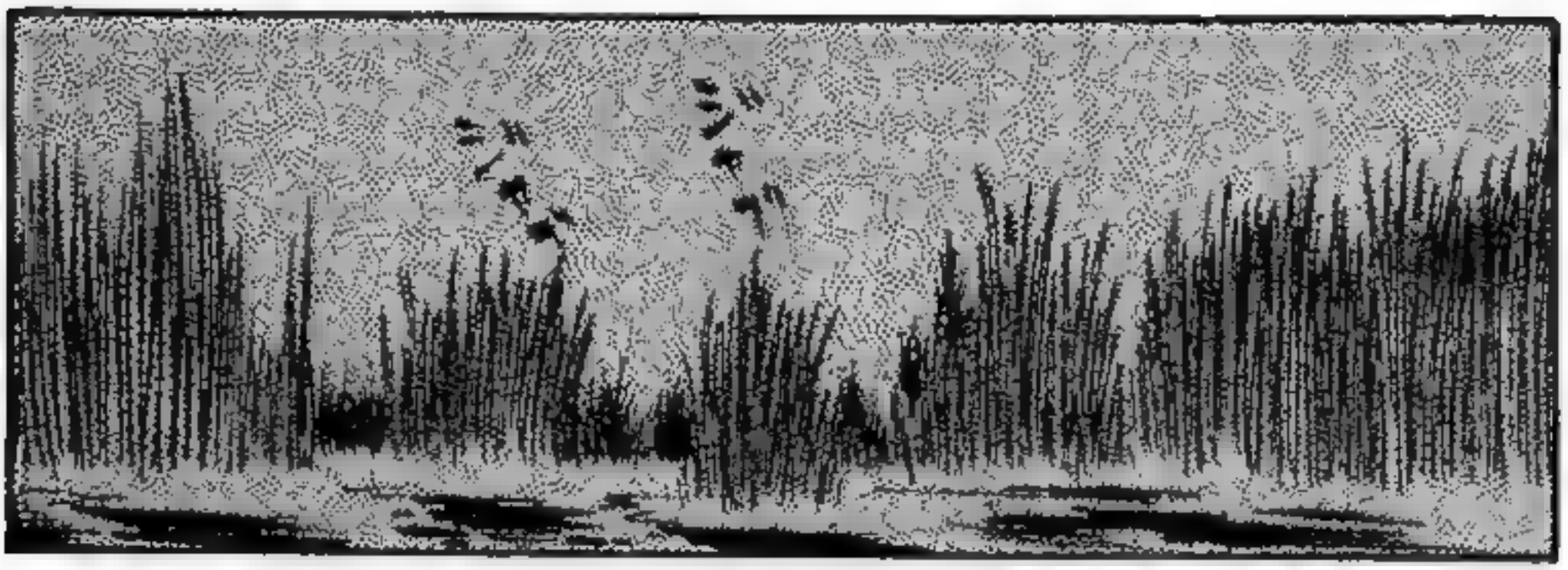



YES, HE MAY BE DEAD ALREADY...
BUT I'M CERTAIN I SAW HIM BEING PIERCED BY OUR ARROWS.


I CAN'T SEE HIM ANYMORE...


ALRIGHT, LET US WASTE NO MORE TIME HERE! WE MUST ELIMINATE THE REST OF CAO CAO'S FORCES!






AGHI


HAH...
HAH...



MY LORD CAO CAO, IS THAT YOU, SIR!?

DAMN... WILL THIS BE THE END OF ME...?

AHHH, MY MEN!

MY LORD! THANK THE HEAVENS THAT SIR HAS SURVIVED!

HAS SIR SUSTAINED ANY HEAVY INJURIES?

THE SURVIVORS ARE GATHERING HERE AS WE SPEAK BUT I'M AFRAID THAT OUR FORCES HAVE SUSTAINED HEAVY CASUALTIES.

WHAT OF THE OTHERS?

I... UNFORTUNATELY WITNESSED HIM FIGHTING TO HIS DEATH...

AND WHERE IS MY BODYGUARD, DIAN WEI?

YES, MY LORD... HE DIED FIGHTING TO PREVENT A SINGLE ENEMY FROM ENTERING SIR'S RESIDENCES...

YOU MEAN... THE MIGHTY DIAN WEI HAS BEEN SLAIN...?




HOW... COULD THIS BE...?


IN THE END, HIS ENTIRE BODY HAD BEEN PIERCED BY ARROWS AND HE DIED STANDING...

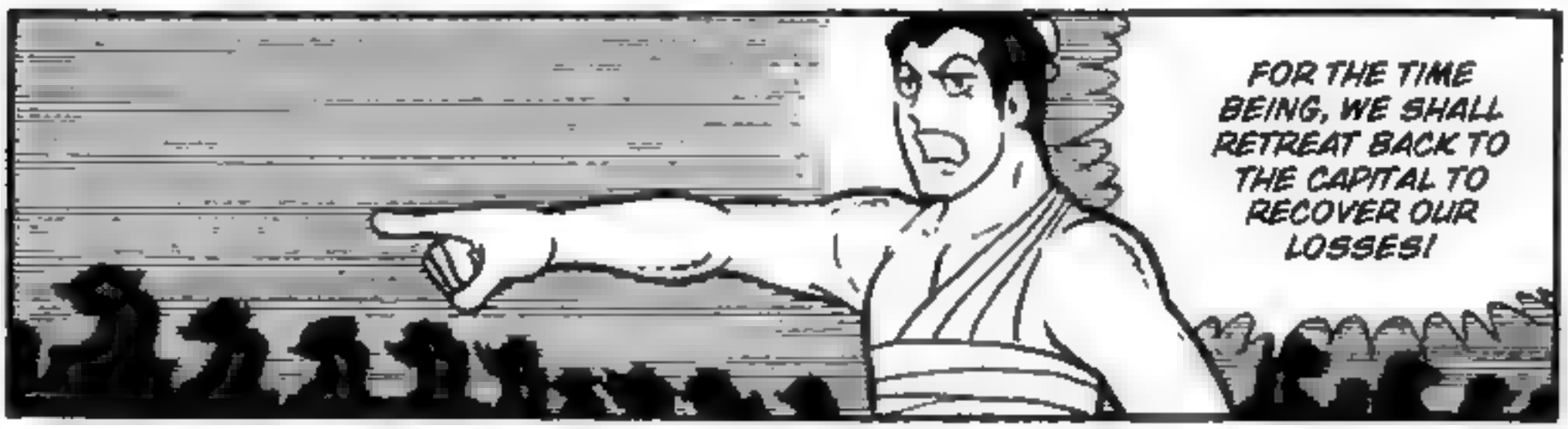

JUST BECAUSE I HAD FOOLISHLY BEEN DISTRACTED BY A MERE WOMAN, I HAVE LOST A MOST LOYAL AND COURAGEOUS SUBORDINATE...

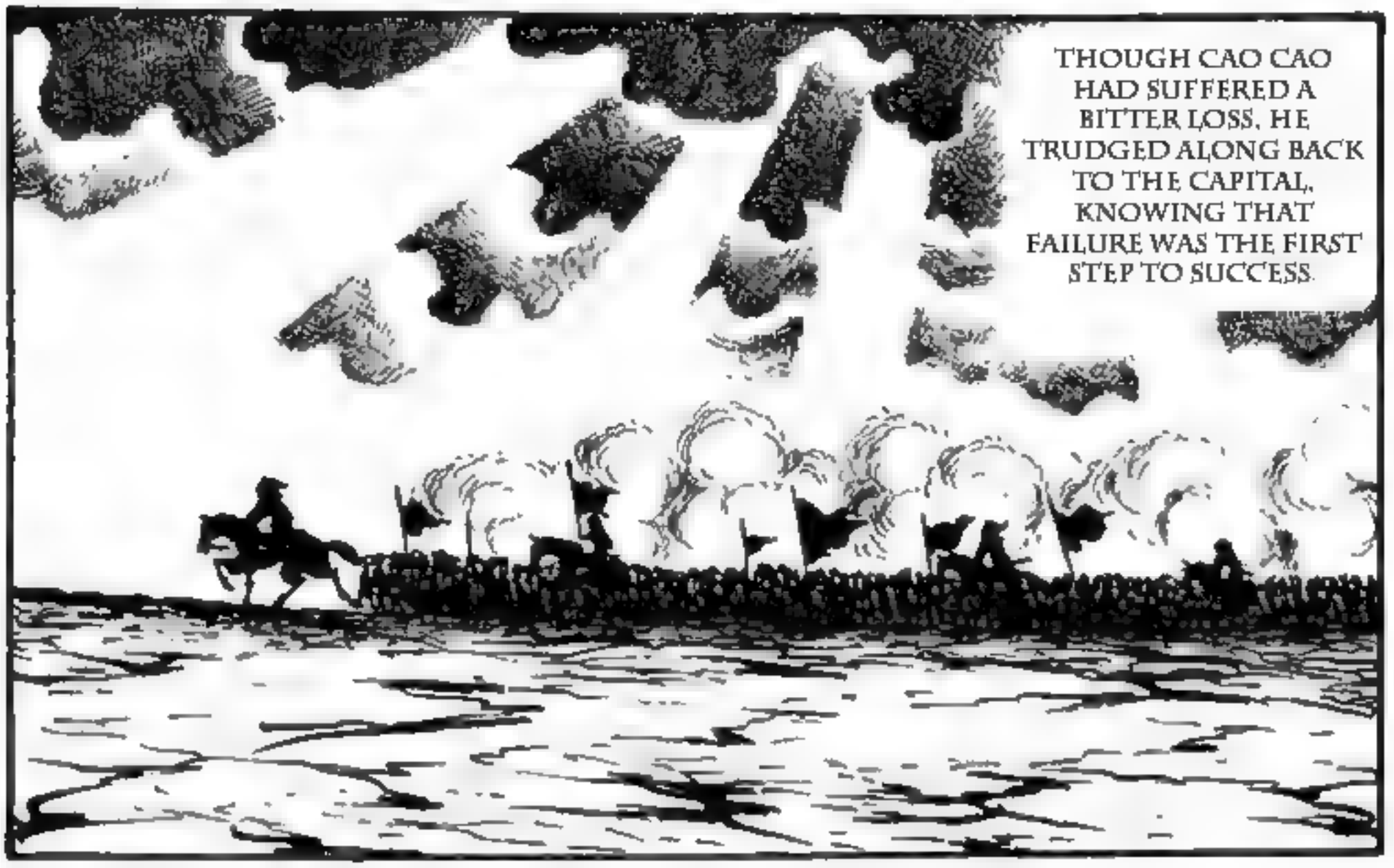

I VOW TO BECOME A MAN WORTHY ENOUGH FOR YOU TO HAVE VALIANTLY GIVEN UP YOUR LIFE FOR.


I SHALL NOT LET YOUR DEATH BE IN VAIN, DIAN WEI...


THIS TIME SHALL BE NO DIFFERENT! I SHALL KEEP MY MEMORY OF THIS BITTER DEFEAT NEAR IN MY HEART AND LEARN FROM IT!


LISTEN WELL, MY MEN! WITH EACH DEFEAT I HAVE SUFFERED IN THE PAST, I HAVE LEARNED FROM MY MISTAKES TO COME BACK EVEN GREATER THAN I WAS BEFORE!


FOR THE TIME BEING, WE SHALL RETREAT BACK TO THE CAPITAL TO RECOVER OUR LOSSES!


THOUGH CAO CAO HAD SUFFERED A BITTER LOSS, HE TRUDGED ALONG BACK TO THE CAPITAL, KNOWING THAT FAILURE WAS THE FIRST STEP TO SUCCESS.

# THE CHEN FATHER AND SON





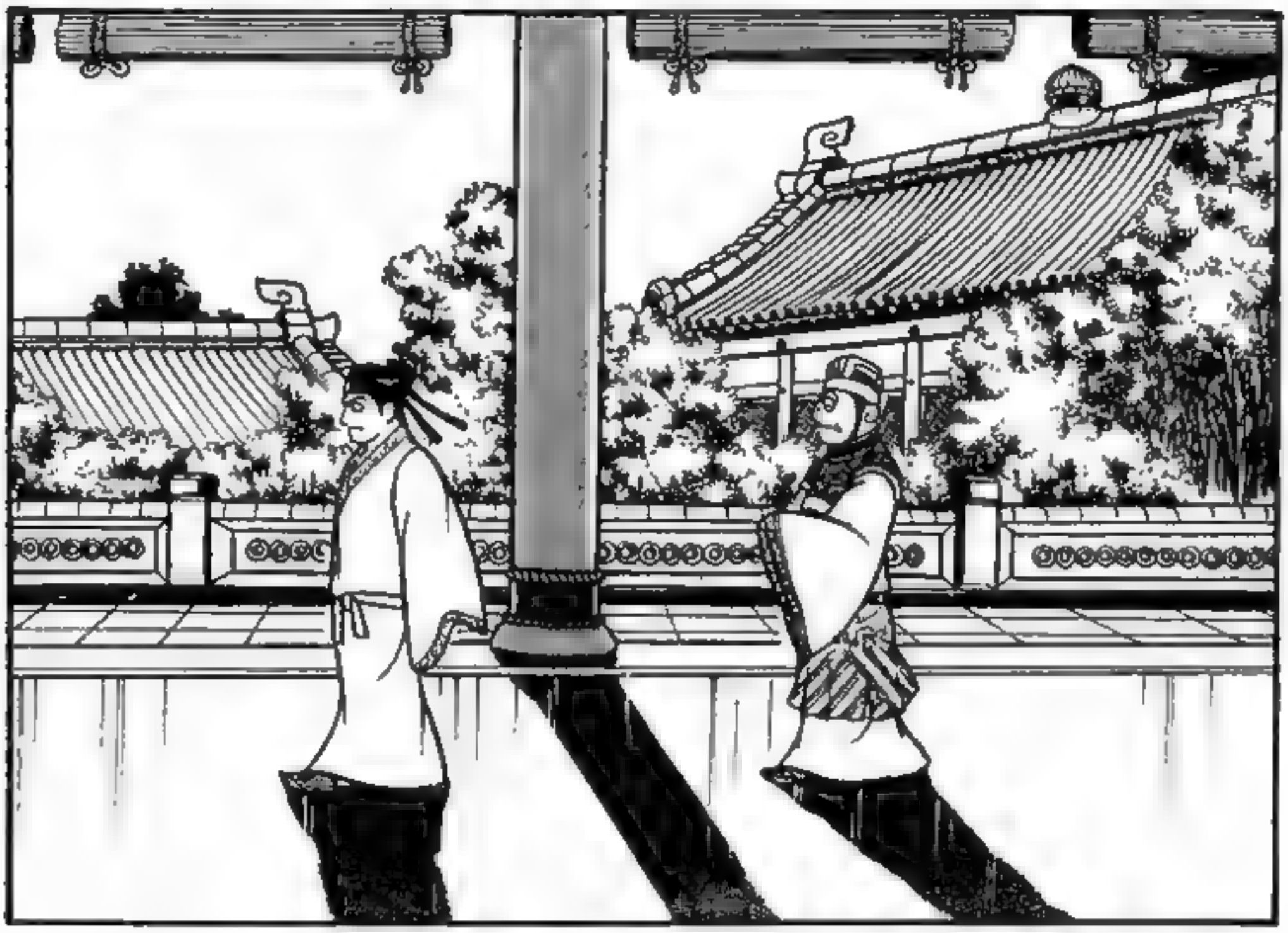





YES, CHANCEL-
LOR. HE HAS
ALSO BROUGHT
ALONG A
CAPTIVE.


A
CAPTIVE?


CHEN DENG...?
AH, IS HE THE
SON OF CHEN
GUI, ONE OF
XUZHOU'S
MINISTERS?
CHANCELLOR, A
MESSENGER FROM
XUZHOU CALLED
CHEN DENG HAS
BEEN SENT BY
LU BU.



YES, AND I HAVE BEEN SENT BY LU BU.

MAY YOU BE CHEN DENG?

THIS IS HAN YIN, A MESSENGER FROM HUAINAN SENT BY YUAN SHU.

AND WHO'S THIS CAPTIVE?

BUT WE KNEW THAT THIS WAS JUST A PLOY OF HIS TO SECURE HIS SURROUNDINGS SO THAT HE COULD PREPARE FOR HIS ATTACK ON XUCHANG TO SEAT HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR.

HE WAS SENT BY YUAN SHU TO ARRANGE A MARRIAGE BETWEEN YUAN SHU'S SON AND LU BU'S DAUGHTER.

BUT AFTER MY LORD RECEIVED THE TITLE OF "GENERAL WHO PACIFIES THE EAST" THANKS TO THE CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION, HE THOUGHT THAT CAPTURING THE MESSENGER OF THAT TRAITOROUS YUAN SHU WAS THE LEAST HE COULD DO.

DOES HIS ARRO-GANCE KNOW NO BOUNDS ...!?

I HAD HEARD OF THE RUMOURS THAT YUAN SHU WAS PLANNING TO TAKE OVER THE THRONE...

ACK!

I WANT THIS DOG OF THE REBEL EXECUTED FIRST THING TOMOR-ROW MORNING!

THANK YOU, CHANCELLOR.

I THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THIS TO MY ATTENTION. I REQUEST THAT YOU PLEASE JOIN ME FOR A GLASS TONIGHT.

YES, SIR.

PLEASE, THESE ARE MY PRIVATE QUARTERS SO THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL. DRINK AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

BY THE WAY, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR LORD, LU BU?

HMM?

I DO NOT THINK MUCH OF HIM.

MY FATHER, CHEN GUI, WAS UNFORTUNATELY IN XUZHOU WHEN LU BU TOOK CONTROL AND SO MY FATHER AND I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BECOME HIS SUBORDINATES IF WE WANTED TO LIVE.

I KNOW IT IS OUT OF LINE FOR A MERE SUBORDINATE TO SAY SUCH THINGS ABOUT HIS LORD, BUT LU BU IS A MAN WHO WOULD NOT HESITATE TO BETRAY SOMEONE FOR HIS OWN BENEFIT.

BUT AS LONG AS I'M AWARE OF HIS CHARACTER, I SHALL NOT BE CAUGHT UNAWARE.

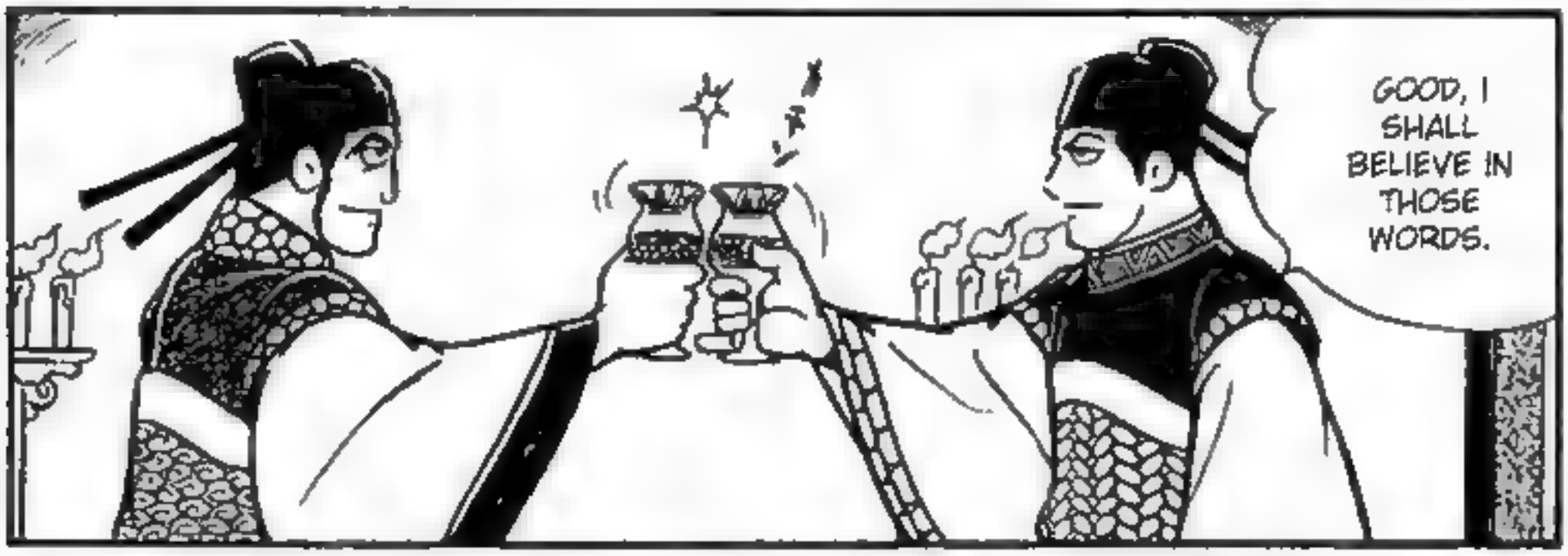
I SEE... TO BE HONEST, I FEEL THE SAME WAY AS YOU ABOUT LU BU.

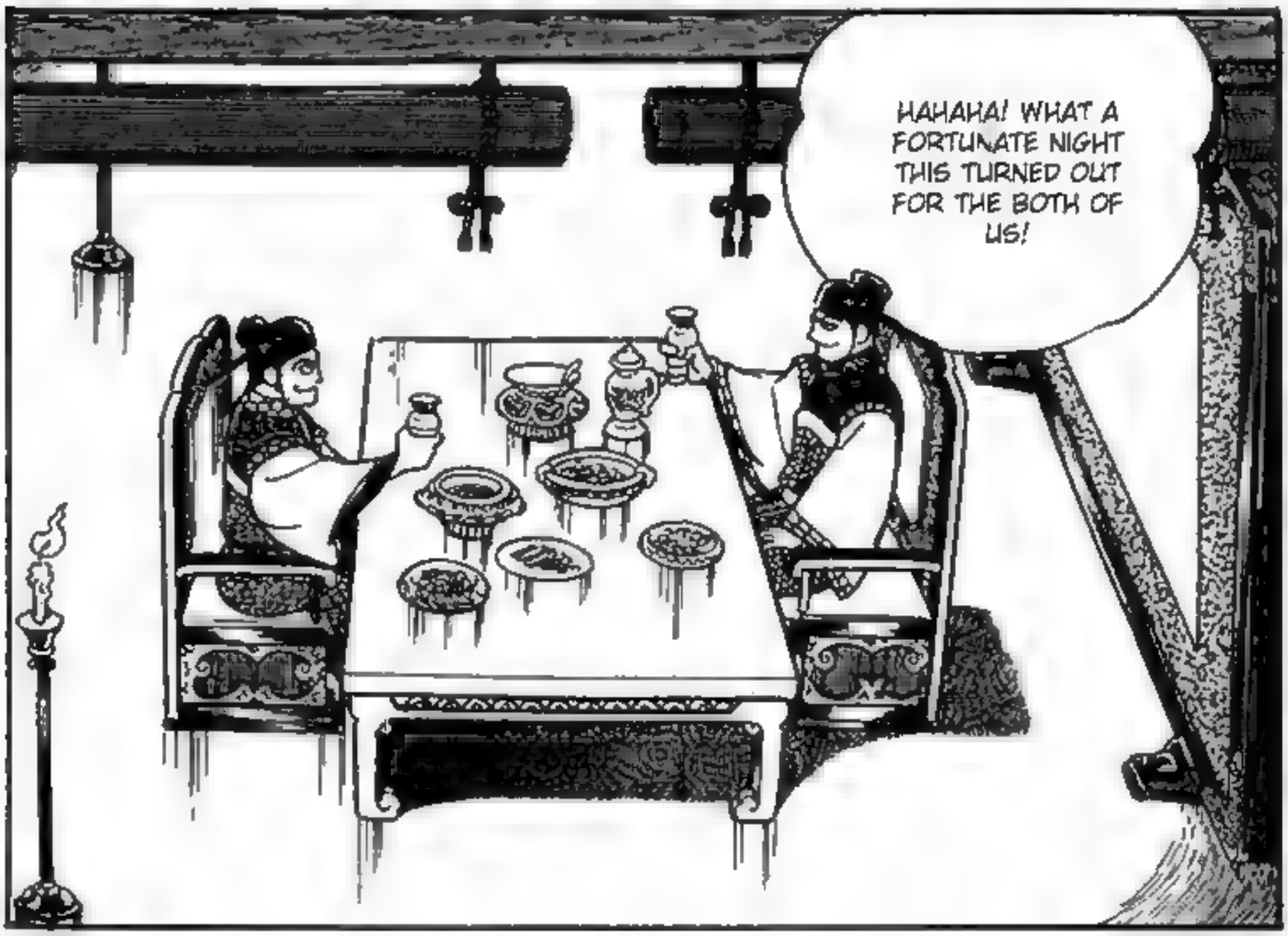
I AM QUITE GLAD THAT I HAD THE CHANCE TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH YOU, CHEN DENG. IF YOU FEEL THAT LU BU IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE LORD TO SERVE, THEN HOW ABOUT SECRETLY WORKING UNDER ME?

IN TIMES LIKE THESE, IT IS CRUCIAL TO ONE'S SURVIVAL TO KNOW WHEN TO ALLY WITH ANOTHER AND WHEN TO TURN AGAINST THEM.

THE WORLD IS IN CHAOS RIGHT NOW, WITH EACH LORD VYING FOR MORE POWER AND TERRITORY.


MY FATHER AND I WERE SERVANTS TO THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU, TAO QIAN AND THUS DO NOT OWE LU BU FOR ANYTHING. WE WILL GLADLY HELP OUT THE CHANCELLOR.


GOOD, I SHALL BELIEVE IN THOSE WORDS.


HAHAHA! WHAT A FORTUNATE NIGHT THIS TURNED OUT FOR THE BOTH OF US!


HUAINAN
WHAT!? HAN YIN HAS BEEN EXECUTED AT XUCHANG!?
YES, SIR.


I SHAN'T SIT STILL AND TAKE THIS INSULT...!
DOES HE UNDERESTIMATE MY POWER THAT MUCH...!?


THAT LU BU DARES TO HAND OVER MY MESSENGER TO CAO CAO...!?

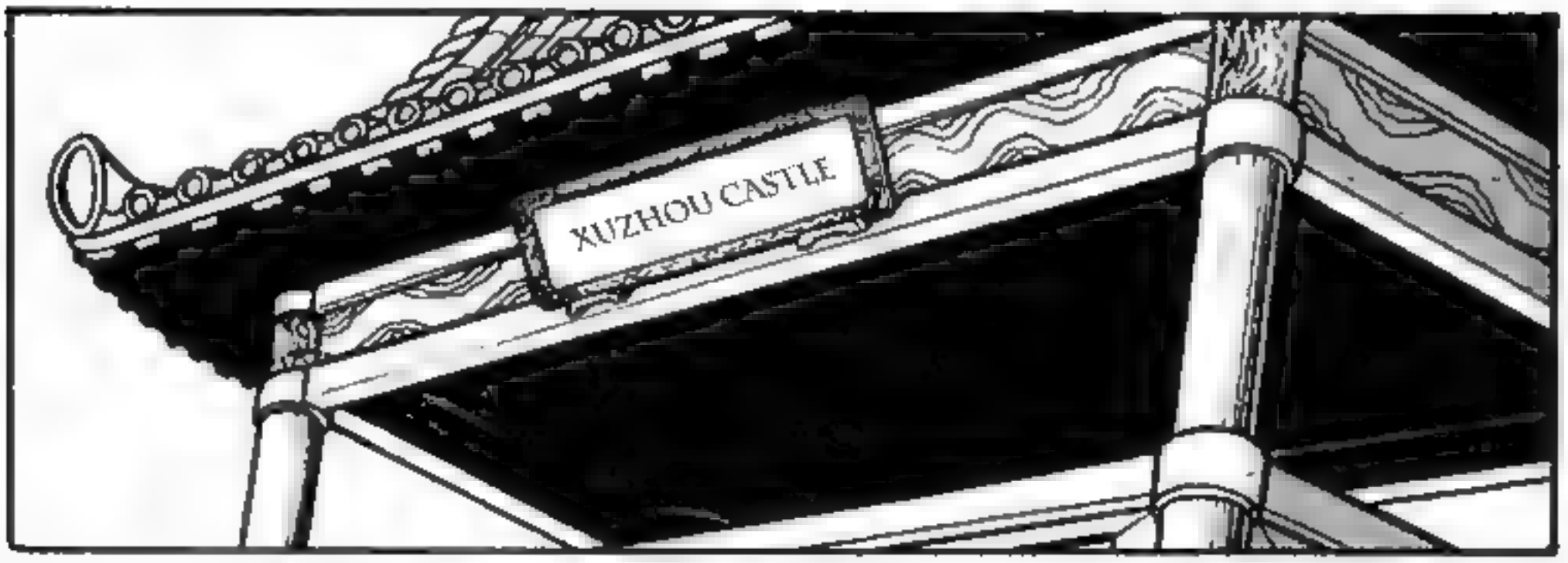

MOBILIZE MY ARMY IMMEDIATELY AND SHOW LU BU WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME!

AND SO, YUAN SHU'S ARMY OF 200,000,

STORMED ONWARDS TO XUZHOU


XUZHOU'S CITIES FELL ONE BY ONE,


AND YUAN SHU'S ARMY SEEMED UNSTO-PPABLE


XUZHOU CASTLE


YES SIR, OUR FORCES ARE BEING DEFEATED AT ALL FRONTS.
WHAT? XIAOPEI HAS FALLEN TO THE ENEMIES AS WELL!?


NGHHH...!
THEIR ARMY NUMBERS AT 200,000. I'M AFRAID THAT EVEN XUZHOU CASTLE MAY NOT HOLD OUT FOR LONG.

I BELIEVE THAT THE CHENS CAN BE BLAMED FOR THIS.

DO YOU GENTLEMEN HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS TO STOP YUAN SHU'S ARMY!?

THAT'S RIGHT!

THIS WHOLE CRISIS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF CHEN GUI SUGGESTING TO SIR THAT THE MARRIAGE BE BROKEN OFF AND HIS SON CHEN DENG HANDING OVER HAN YIN TO CAO CAO. YET DESPITE CARRYING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS WAR, THEY HAVE NOT HELPED OUT IN THE WAR EFFORT AT ALL AND REMAIN SHUT IN THEIR HOMES.

HMM...

YUAN SHU MIGHT BE PLACATED IF WE OFFER HIM THE HEADS OF CHEN GUI AND CHEN DENG AND TELL HIM THAT THIS WAS ALL BECAUSE OF THE CHENS.

YES, SIR.

ARREST THE CHENS AND BRING THEM TO ME NOW!

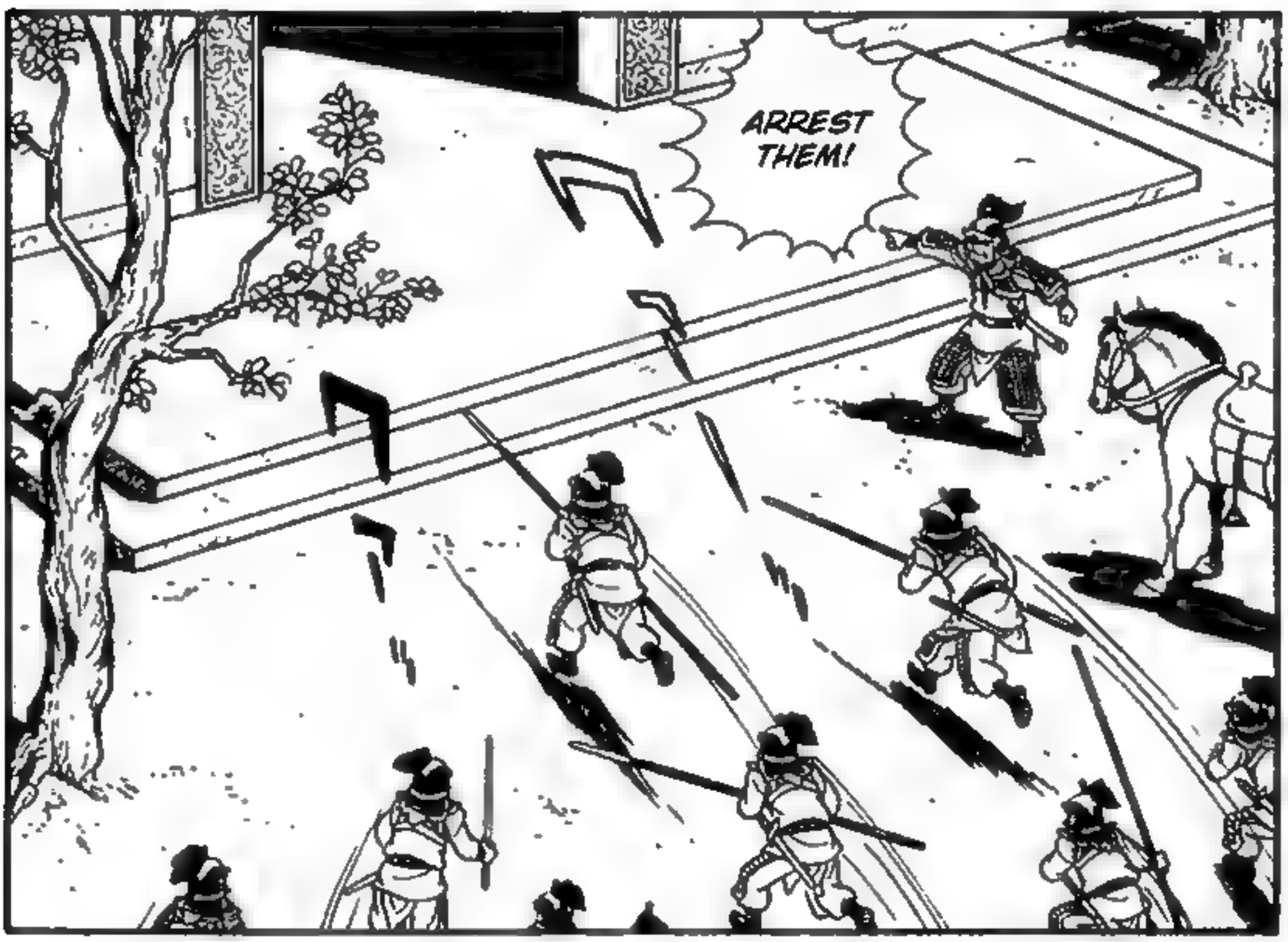
THEY MAY BE A WELL KNOWN FAMILY BUT THIS IS UNFORGIV-ABLE...!

YOU DO HAVE A POINT. THEY HAVEN'T EVEN SHOWN UP HERE AT THE CASTLE LATELY...

WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY OUR LORD TO ARREST CHEN GUI AND HIS SON, CHEN DENG!






ARREST THEM!

DO YOU KNOW WHOSE HOUSE THIS IS THAT YOU DARE INTRUDE UPON!?

WHAT'S THIS RUCKUS!?

SILENCE! OUR LORD HAS ORDERED US TO ARREST AND BRING YOU TWO TO HIM IMMEDIATELY!

WE MUST NOT LET LU BU SEE US PANIC NO MATTER WHAT.

STAY CALM, MY SON

FATHER!

CHEN GUI! YOU HAVE NOT SHOWN YOUR FACE AROUND THE CASTLE DESPITE THE CRISIS WE ARE CURRENTLY IN! I AM QUITE CERTAIN THAT YOU MUST BE PLOTTING SOMETHING BEHIND MY BACK!

HAHAHA...

I AM PLANNING TO SEND BOTH OF YOUR HEADS TO YUAN SHU TO SETTLE A TRUCE.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU FIND SO FUNNY!?

HA HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA HA

DOES SIR BELIEVE THE HEAD OF THIS FRAIL OLD MAN TO BE SO VALUABLE?

W-WHAT!?

BUT I AM QUITE SURPRISED TO SEE THAT THE MIGHTY LU BU IS JUST A GREAT COWARD IN REALITY.

YOU DARE CALL ME A COWARD!?

T-TRIVIAL...?

WELL IF THAT'S NOT THE CASE, WHY WOULD SIR PANIC THIS MUCH OVER A TRIVIAL MATTER?

YUAN SHU HAS BEEN BUILDING HIS ARMY SO HASTILY FOR HIS ASPIRATIONS THAT HE HAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT PAID ANY ATTENTION TO THE QUALITY OF THE SOLDIERS HE HAS RECRUITED.

*ARE YOU NOT AWARE THAT YUAN SHU'S ARMY OF 200,000 IS HEADED HERE AS WE SPEAK!?*

HAN XIAN WAS A FORMER LEADER OF A RAGTAG GROUP OF BANDITS AND YANG FENG USED TO BE A SUBORDINATE OF LI JUE. BOTH OF THESE MEN WERE DEFEATED BY CAO CAO'S FORCES AND ONLY SOUGHT REFUGE WITH YUAN SHU BECAUSE THEY HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE.

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THE ENEMY FORCES' COMMANDERS ...

AHH....

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THE ENEMIES ARE NEITHER VERY LOYAL TO YUAN SHU, NOR ARE THEY HIGHLY TRAINED ELITE SOLDIERS.

MNN...

AND THAT IS WHY I CALLED SIR A COWARD FOR FEARING THIS RAGTAG GROUP YUAN SHU CALLS AN ARMY.

SINCE THE ENEMIES ARE ONLY FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL GAINS, THEY CAN BE EASILY PERSUADED BY POWER AND MONEY.

OF COURSE, SIR.

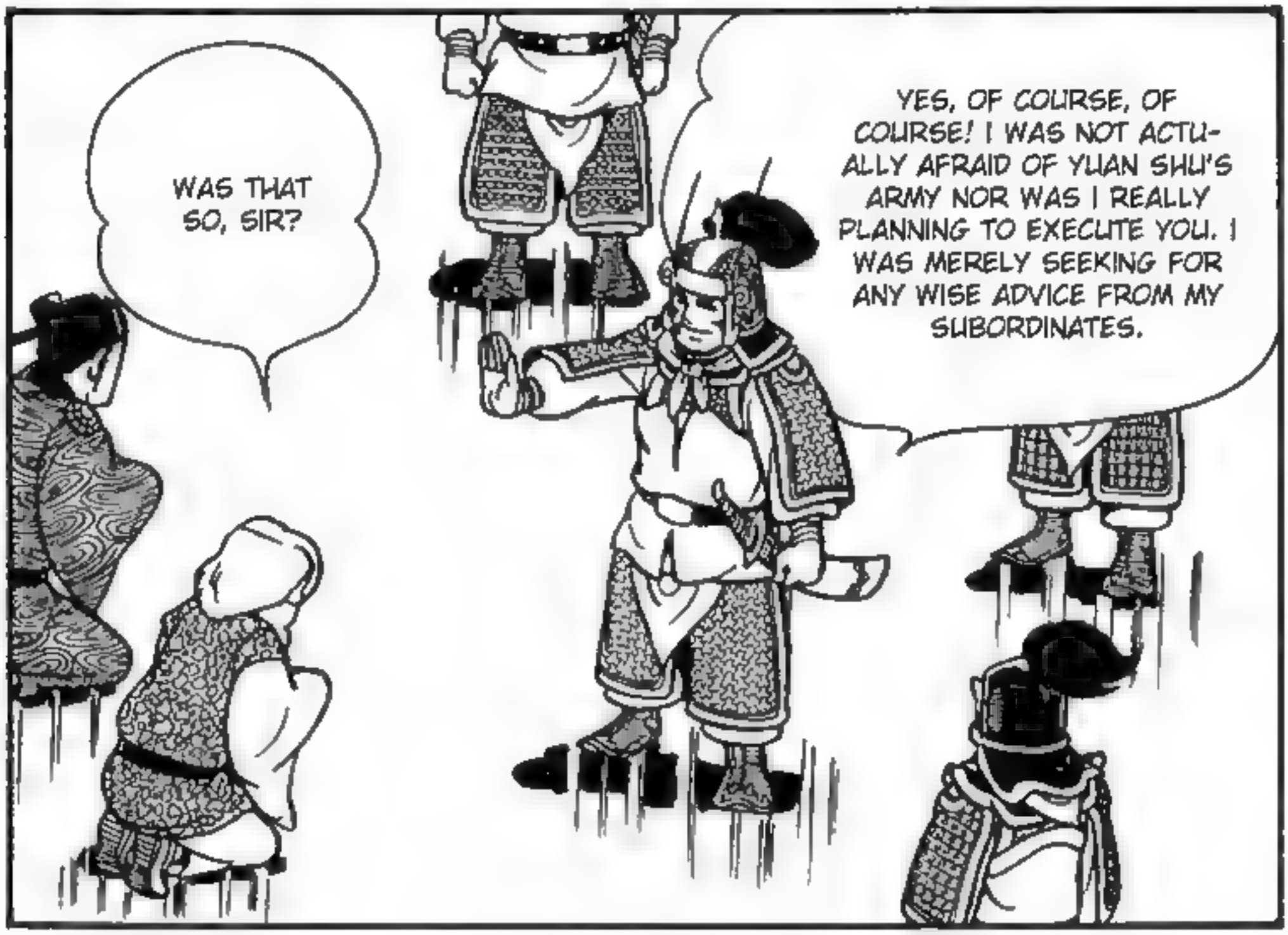
T-THEN DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF A PLAN TO SUGGEST...?

IT WOULD BE EASY TO START A REBELLION AMONGST THEIR RANKS BY EXPLOITING THAT FACT


LIU BEI IS NOT A MAN TO IGNORE A PERSON IN TROUBLE. HE WILL SURELY HELP OUT SIR.


AND WHILE THEY ARE FIGHTING AGAINST EACH OTHER, SIR MUST ASK FOR LIU BEI'S HELP.




WAS THAT SO, SIR?
YES, OF COURSE, OF COURSE! I WAS NOT ACTUALLY AFRAID OF YUAN SHU'S ARMY NOR WAS I REALLY PLANNING TO EXECUTE YOU. I WAS MERELY SEEKING FOR ANY WISE ADVICE FROM MY SUBORDINATES.

YES, SIR.

IN ANY CASE, I SHALL LEAVE THE TASK OF INSTIGATING A REBELLION TO YOU.

YES, YOU MAY LEAVE.

THEN PLEASE EXCUSE US...

NOW THEN, WE MUST GET A MOVE ON WITH OUR TASK.

HAHAHA! YES, THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL.

THAT WAS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE, FATHER! WE WERE MERE SECONDS AWAY FROM LOSING OUR HEADS!

HOW IS MY ARMY FARING SO FAR?

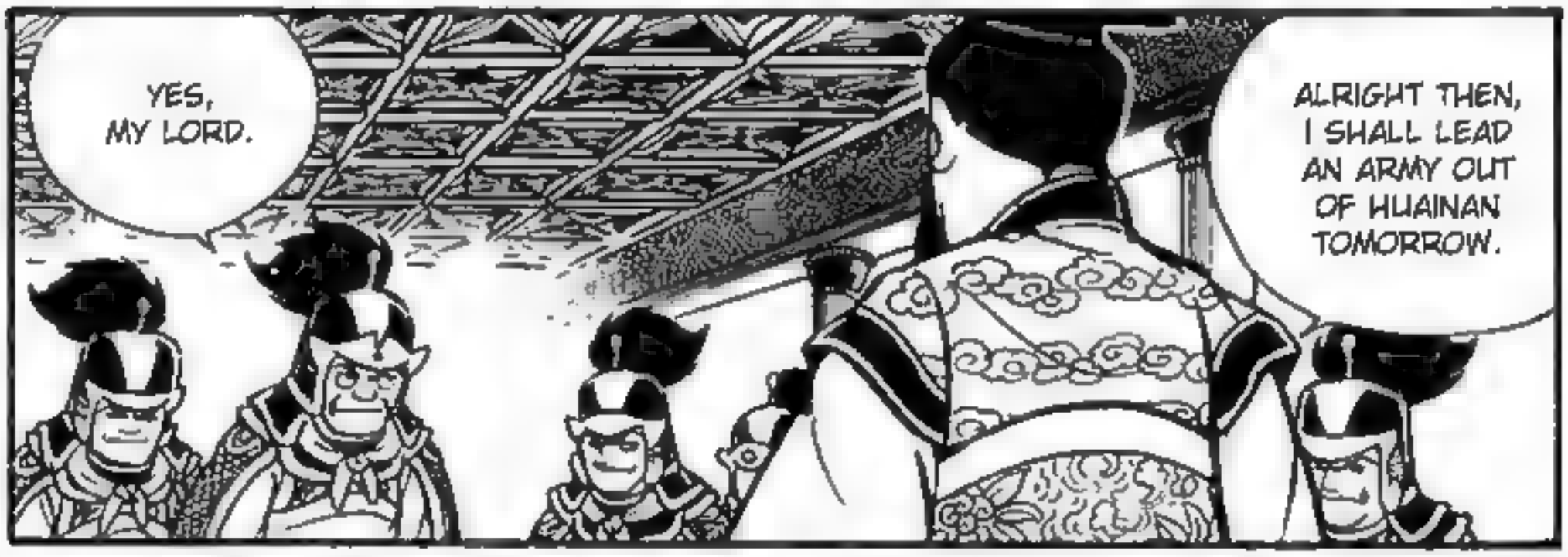
HUAINAN

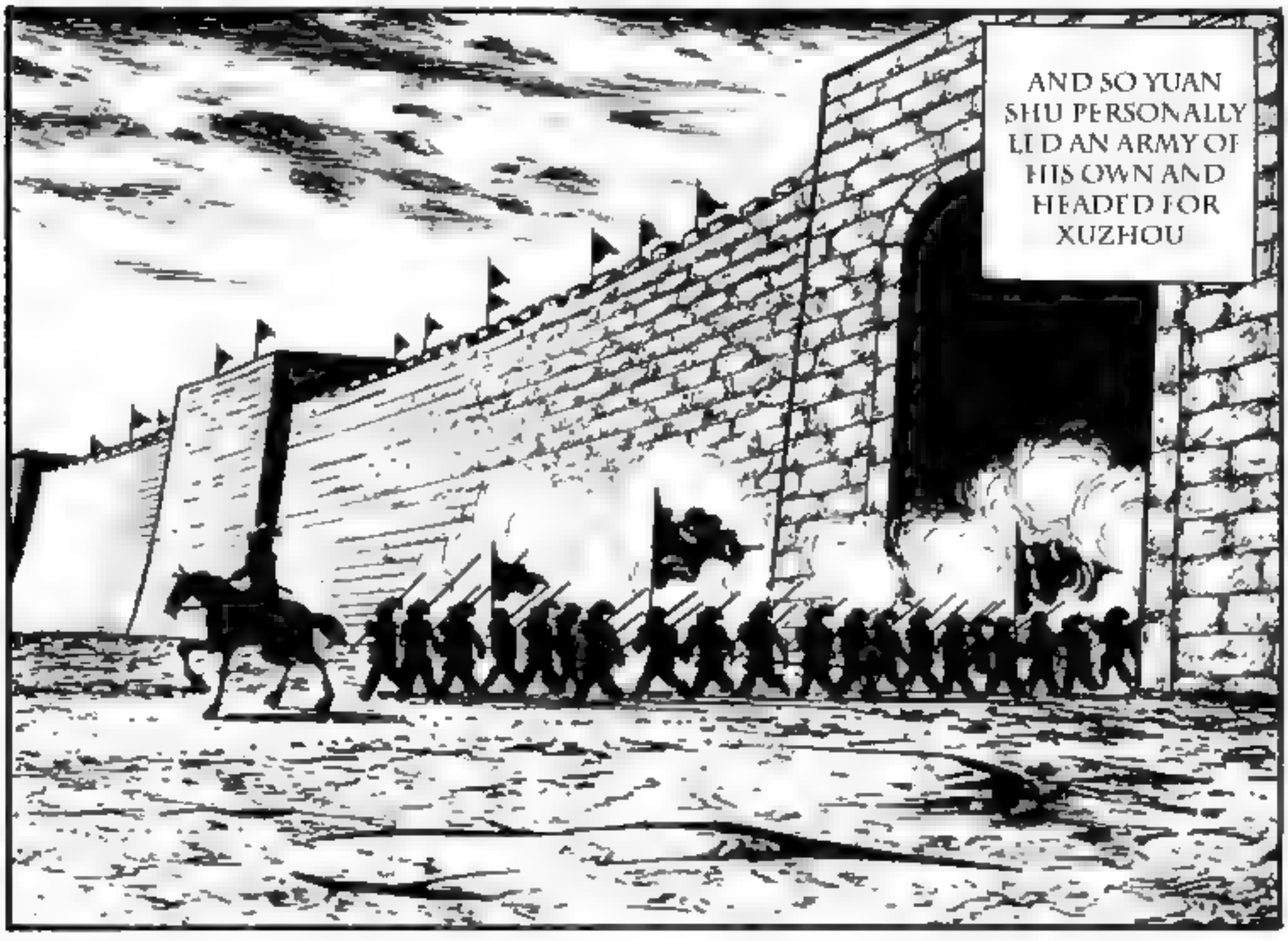
HAHAHA! THAT LU BU MUST BE COWERING IN FEAR RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

THEY HAVE MET ONLY SUCCESS AFTER SUCCESS. ONLY XUZHOU CASTLE ITSELF REMAINS TO BE CAPTURED NOW, MY LORD.

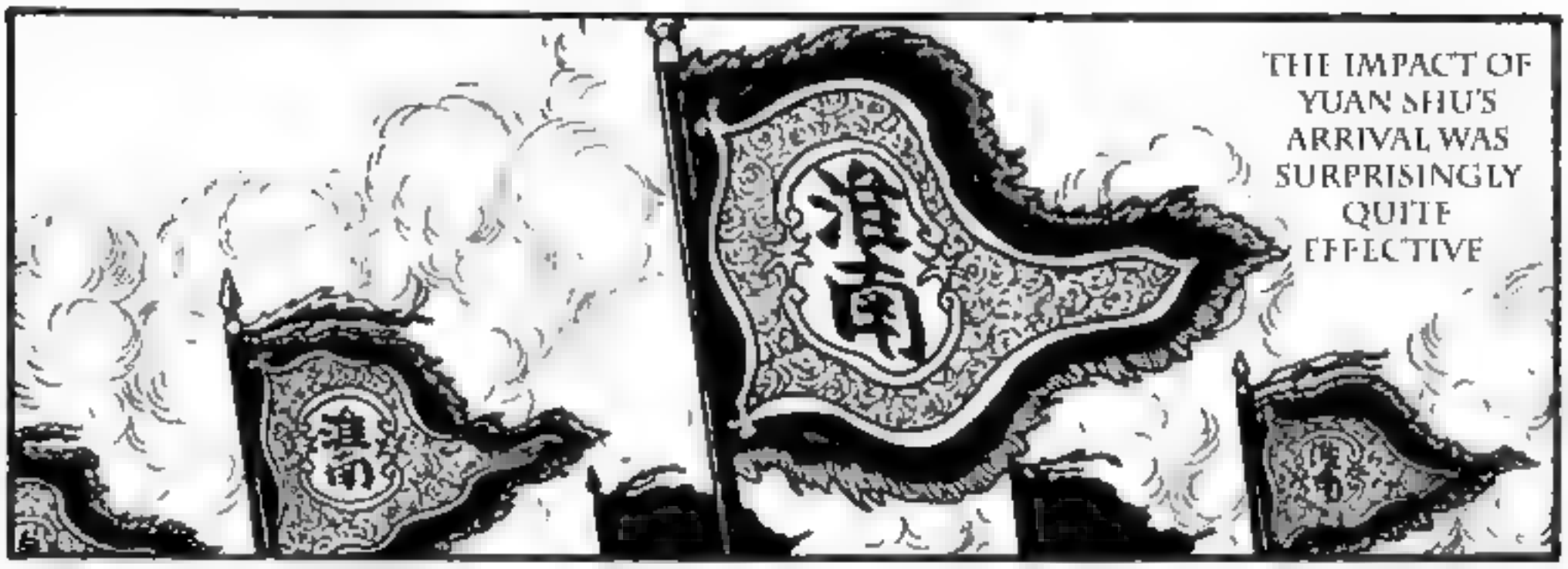

YES...


I BELIEVE IF MY LORD PERSONALLY GOES OUT INTO BATTLE, IT WILL GREATLY BOOST OUR ARMY'S MORALE TO GIVE OUR SOLDIERS THE LAST BIT OF PUSH THEY NEED.


YES, MY LORD.
ALRIGHT THEN, I SHALL LEAD AN ARMY OUT OF HUAINAN TOMORROW.


AND SO YUAN SHU PERSONALLY LED AN ARMY OF HIS OWN AND HEADED FOR XUZHOU

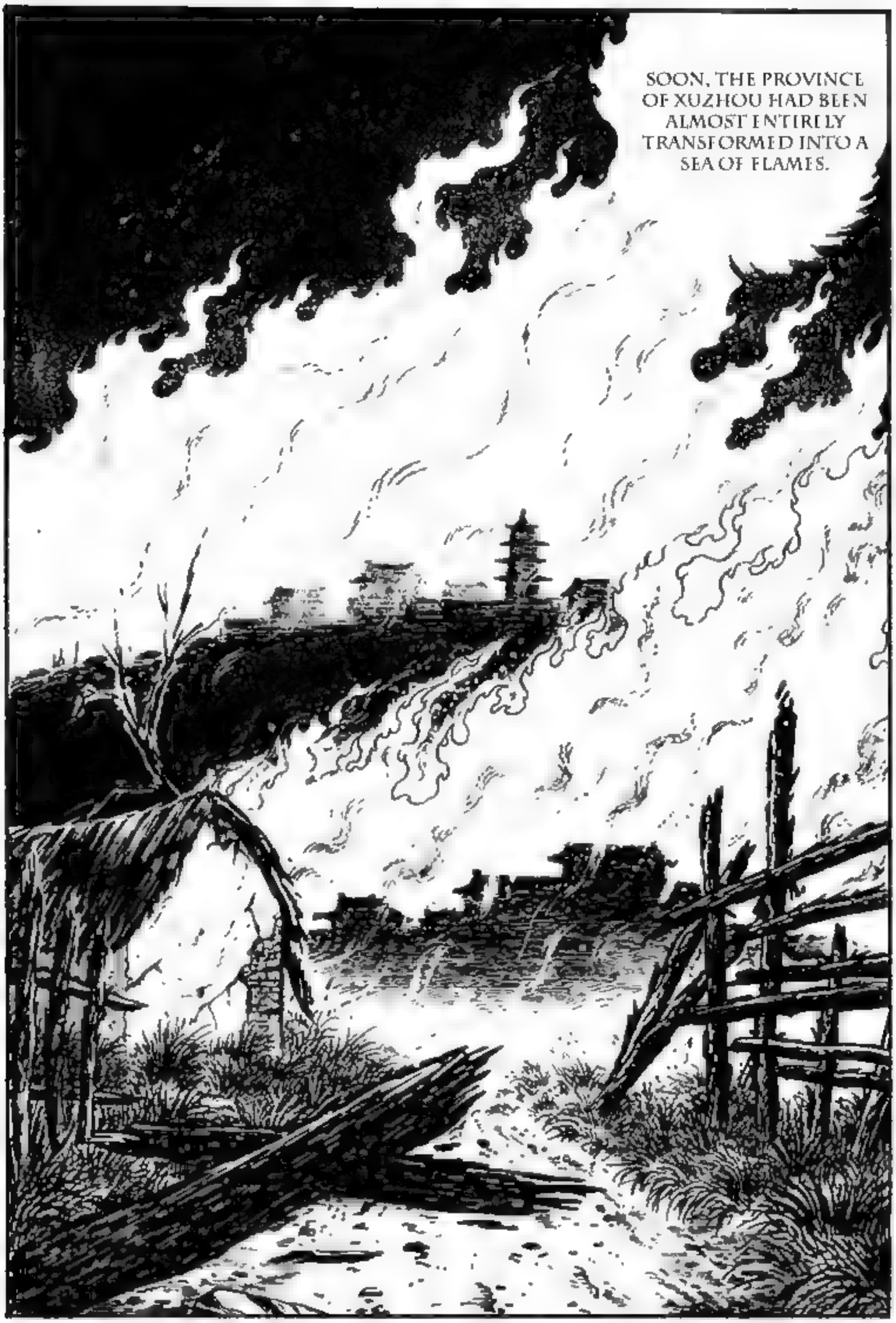
FLAG (淮南) READS HUAINAN










SOON, THE PROVINCE OF XUZHOU HAD BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY TRANSFORMED INTO A SEA OF FLAMES.

FATHER! FATHER!

HMM?

IT SEEMS THAT YUAN SHU HAS PERSONALLY LED AN ARMY OF HIS OWN TO XUZHOU.

GOING OUT? WHERE TO, FATHER?

I WILL BE GOING OUT TOMORROW.

THEN I CANNOT JUST STROLL AROUND LIKE THIS ANY LONGER.

I DON'T NEED ANY GUARDS NOR SERVANTS. JUST A SINGLE SHEEP WILL BE ENOUGH.

HOW MANY GUARDS WILL YOU BE TAKING TO ACCOMPANY YOU, FATHER?

TO MEET WITH HAN XIAN, OF COURSE.

THE ENEMY SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN KILLING AND PILLAGING FOR WEEKS NOW AND ARE AS BLOODTHIRSTY AS EVER. IF I BROUGHT GUARDS ALONG, I'LL JUST RAISE UNNECCESSARY SUSPICION AND BE KILLED ON THE SPOT.

IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE I'M GOING BEHIND ENEMY LINES THAT I CANNOT AFFORD TO BRING ANY GUARDS ALONG.

BUT FATHER! TO GO BEHIND ENEMY LINES WITHOUT ANY GUARDS IS JUST TOO DANGE...

Y-YES, FATHER.

ONE SHEEP WILL BE ENOUGH, YOU HEAR?

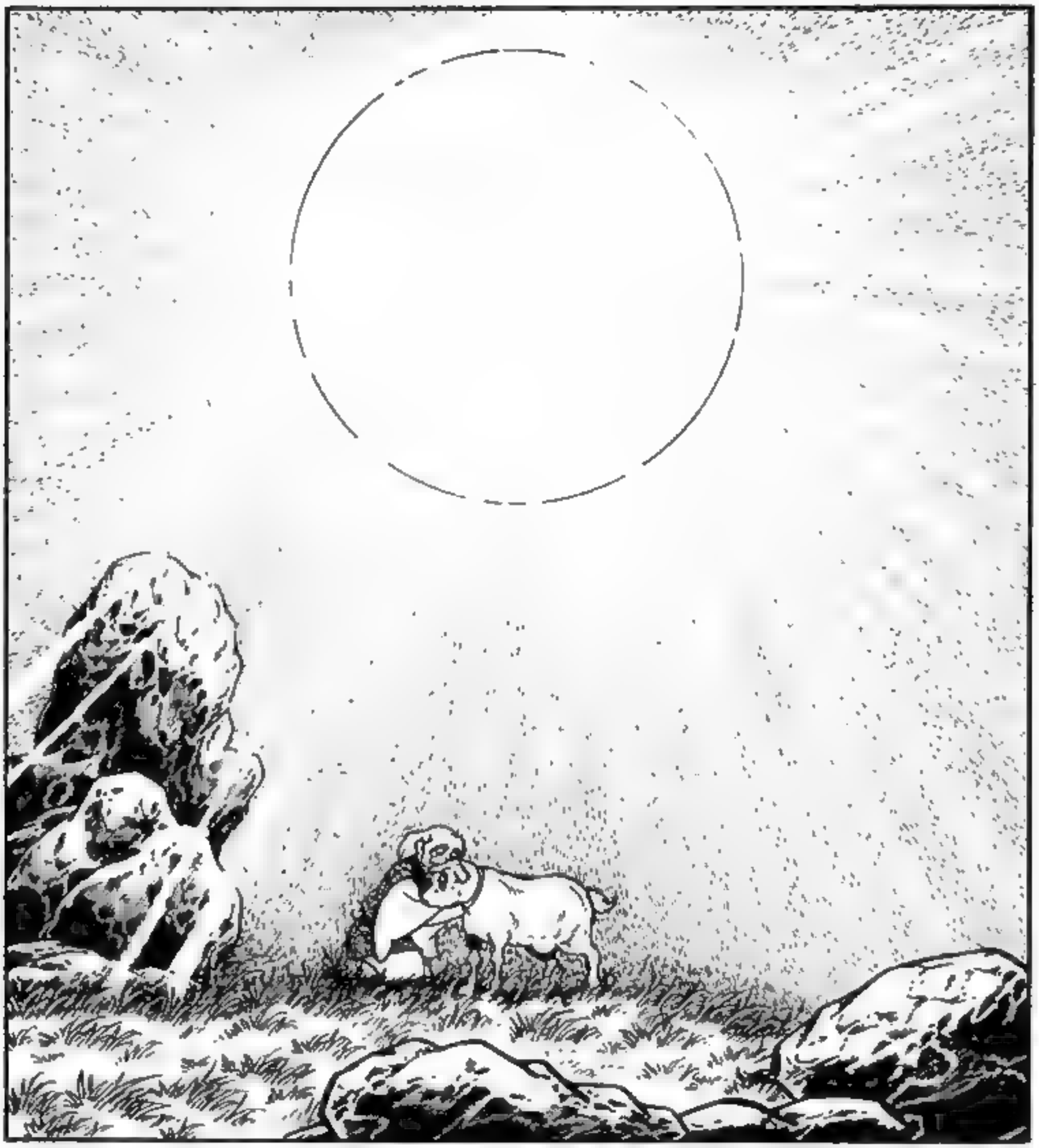
NO NEED TO WORRY FOR LITTLE OLD ME.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL, FATHER.

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO.

.....


AND SO, CHEN GUI HEADED BEHIND ENEMY LINES WITH A SINGLE SHEEP



TIME TO GET MOVING.

AHH...

WE'RE ALMOST THERE AT HAN XIAN'S ENCAMPMENTS.

NOT A SINGLE VILLAGER LEFT ALIVE...

BUT WHAT A GHASTLY SIGHT...




HALT!


HMM?


I MEAN NO HARM. I MERELY WISHED TO PRESENT THIS SHEEP TO GENERAL HAN XIAN.
IDENTIFY YOUR-SELF AND YOUR REASON FOR COMING HERE!


XUZHOU!?


NO, I AM FROM XUZHOU CASTLE.


ARE YOU FROM A VILLAGE NEARBY?

YES, AND NOT ONLY THAT, THE CHENS ARE SUPPOSEDLY QUITE A FAMOUS FAMILY IN XUZHOU.

HEY, ISN'T CHEN GUI ONE OF LU BU'S SUBORDINATES?

PLEASE TELL THE GENERAL THAT CHEN GUI OF XUZHOU WISHES TO SPEAK TO HIM.

PLEASE WAIT HERE FOR A MOMENT.

YOU'RE RIGHT

I THINK IT MIGHT BE BEST TO REPORT HIM TO THE GENERAL AS HE SAYS.

ALRIGHT THEN, I'LL BE WAITING RIGHT HERE.

WHAT?

GENERAL HAN XIAN, AN OLD MAN NAMED CHEN GUI FROM XUZHOU HAS COME JUST NOW, WISHING TO SPEAK WITH SIR.

YES, I'M AWARE OF THAT.

GENERAL, CHEN GUI IS ONE OF LU BU'S SUB-ORDINATE AND OF THE VERY WELL-KNOWN CHEN FAMILY OF XUZHOU.

CHEN GUI FROM XUZHOU...?

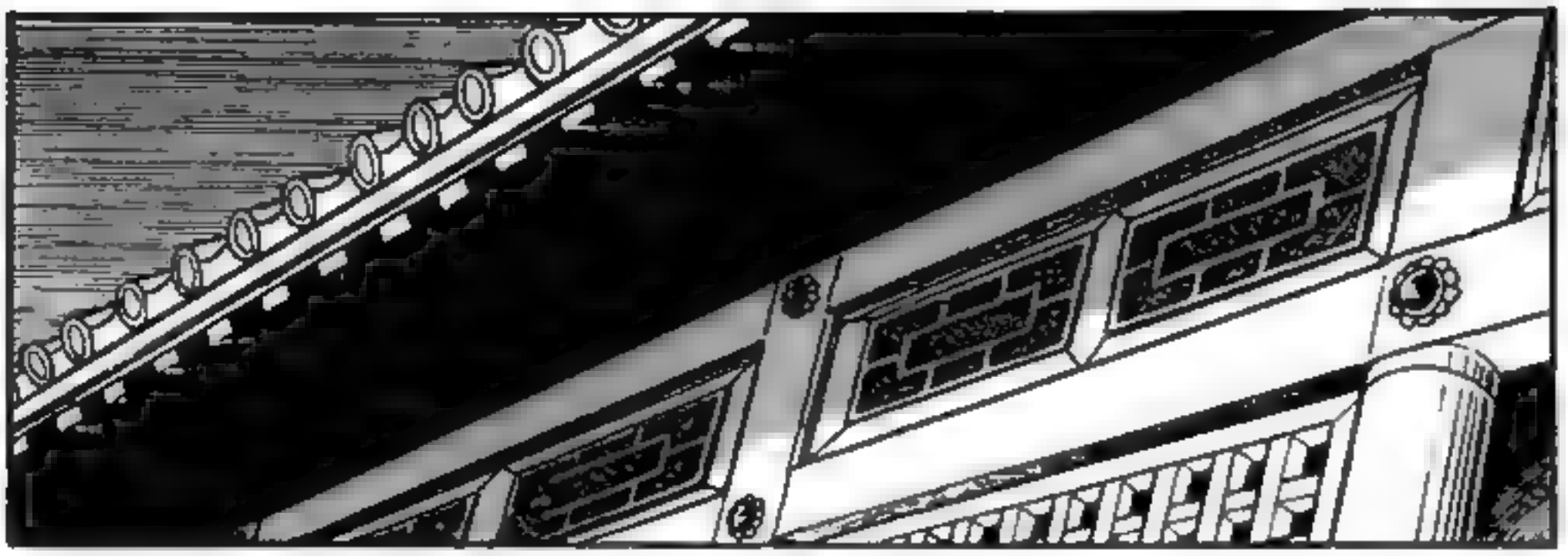
YES, SIR.

IN ANY CASE, JUST LET HIM IN FOR THE TIME BEING.

BUT WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ME...?

AH, SO I'VE BEEN GRANTED AUDIENCE WITH THE GENERAL?

THIS WAY, SIR.




THANK YOU GENERAL. I FEEL THE SAME WAY AS WELL.
GOOD EVENING, I AM GENERAL HAN XIAN. IT IS A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.


?
HMM...

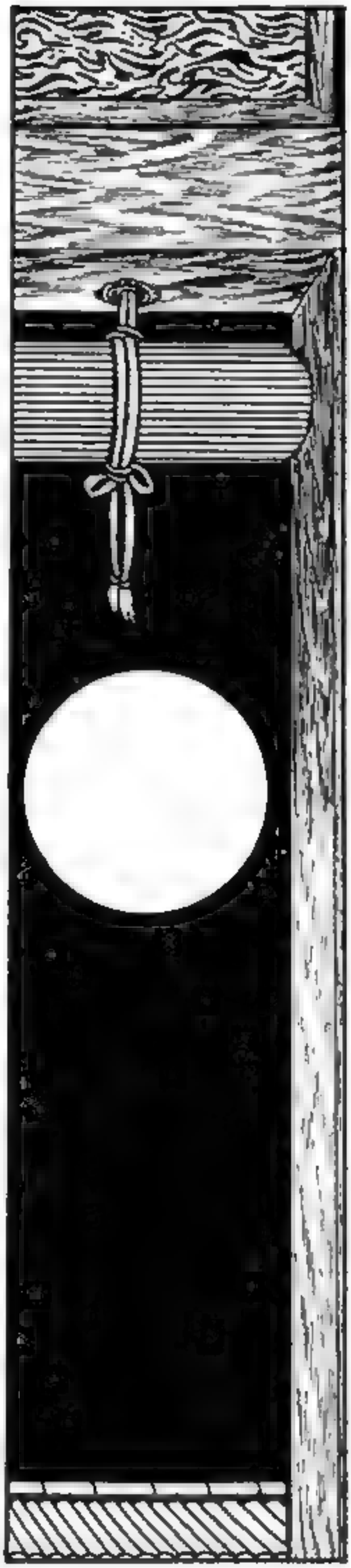

SO FOR WHAT REASON DOES A SUBORDINATE OF LU BU WISH TO SPEAK TO ME?

THE FULL MOON IS QUITE BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE OUR CONVERSATION AS WE TAKE A LITTLE NIGHT STROLL.

VERY WELL, THEN. LET US GO OUTSIDE.

SO HE MUST WANT TO TALK TO ME IN PRIVATE...





SINCE XUZHOU IS JUST ONE PROVINCE OF HAN, I AM REALLY A SERVANT OF HAN.

EARLIER, SIR CALLED ME A SUBORDINATE OF LU BU BUT THAT IS NOT REALLY SO.

BUT IN ANY CASE, I HAVE HEARD THAT YOUR LORD YUAN SHU IS AIMING FOR THE EMPEROR'S THRONE HIMSELF.

I HAVE EVEN HEARD THAT YUAN SHU HAS OBTAINED THE IMPERIAL SEAL...

HAHA... YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT HOW MANY PEOPLE ALREADY KNOW OF THAT.

WHAT!? WHO DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?

THERE ARE STILL MANY WHO ARE VERY LOYAL TO THE CURRENT EMPEROR OF HAN.

AND THEY CERTAINLY WON'T LET SOMEONE LIKE YUAN SHU TO OVERTAKE THE THRONE.

BUT DOES SIR REALLY THINK THE PEOPLE WILL ALLOW FOR YUAN SHU TO DO AS HE WISHES?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, LIU BEI XUANDE OF YUZHOU IS SENDING AN ARMY OF HIS OWN TO HELP OUT LU BU.

W-WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME, THE ENEMY, OF SUCH THINGS...?

ALTHOUGH THE TWO DO NOT HAVE A VERY GOOD RELATIONSHIP, LIU BEI MOST LIKELY AGREED TO HELP BECAUSE HE FINDS YUAN SHU TO BE THAT MUCH OF A DETESTABLE CHARACTER.

AS I'VE ALREADY SAID, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL LOYAL TO EMPEROR XIAN OF HAN WILL SOON BAND TOGETHER TO DESTROY YUAN SHU AND HIS ARMY.

KILLED...!?

THAT IS BECAUSE I AM QUITE SADDENED THAT A MAN OF SIR'S CALIBRE WILL BE KILLED IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

AND AS A REBEL, SIR WILL SURELY BE HUNTED DOWN AND KILLED.

ONCE THAT HAPPENS, SIR WILL BECOME NOTHING MORE THAN A REBEL.

BREAK OFF YOUR RELATIONS WITH YUAN SHU.

T-THEN PLEASE TELL ME JUST WHAT I SHOULD DO...?

BETRAY? BUT AREN'T YOU A SERVANT OF HAN LIKE ME? I AM MERELY ASKING THE GENERAL TO VANQUISH THE REBELS.

Y-YOU MEAN TO BETRAY MY LORD...!?

B-BUT JUST HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TAKE ON YUAN SHU'S ENTIRE ARMY BY MYSELF...?

DO THAT AND SIR WILL NOT ONLY EARN THE EMPEROR'S GRATITUDE BUT BE ASSISTED BY LU BU.

WITH SIR AND GENERAL YANG FENG'S ARMIES, COUPLED WITH LU BU AND LIU BEI'S FORCES, YUAN SHU CAN BE EASILY DEFEATED.

ISN'T SIR QUITE CLOSE WITH GENERAL YANG FENG?

I HOPE SIR CAN MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION...

T-TO BE HONEST, I HAD BEEN QUITE DISTRESSED OVER YUAN SHU'S IMMORAL AND AVARICIOUS ASPIRATIONS.

ALRIGHT THEN. I SHALL TRY TO CONVINCE MY FRIEND YANG FENG TO JOIN ME IN SWITCHING SIDES.

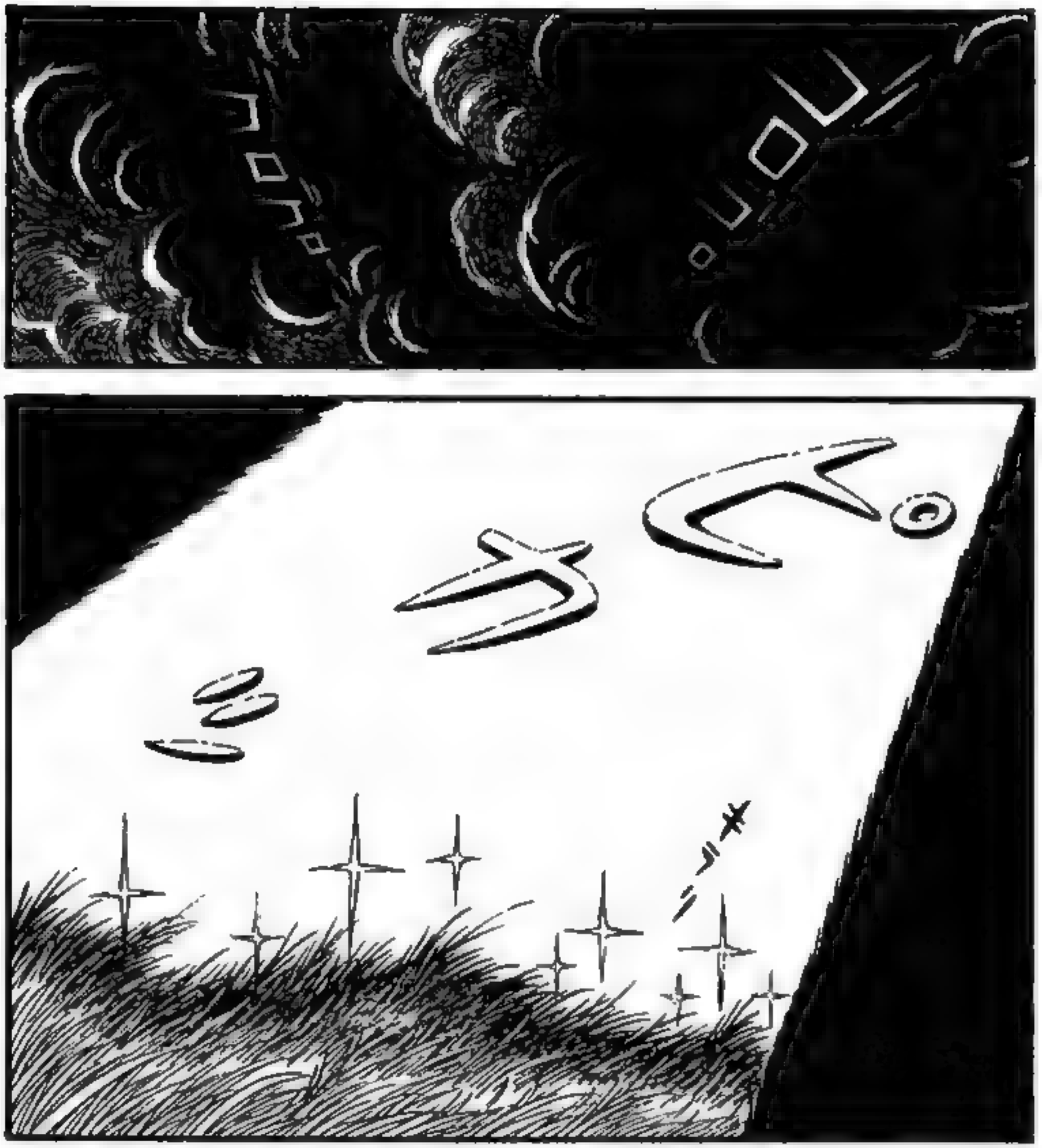
YES, I GUARANTEE IT, GENERAL.

SO ARE YOU SURE THAT LU BU WILL WELCOME ME IF I WERE TO SWITCH SIDES...?

HAHAHA! A WISE DECISION AS EXPECTED OF SIR!

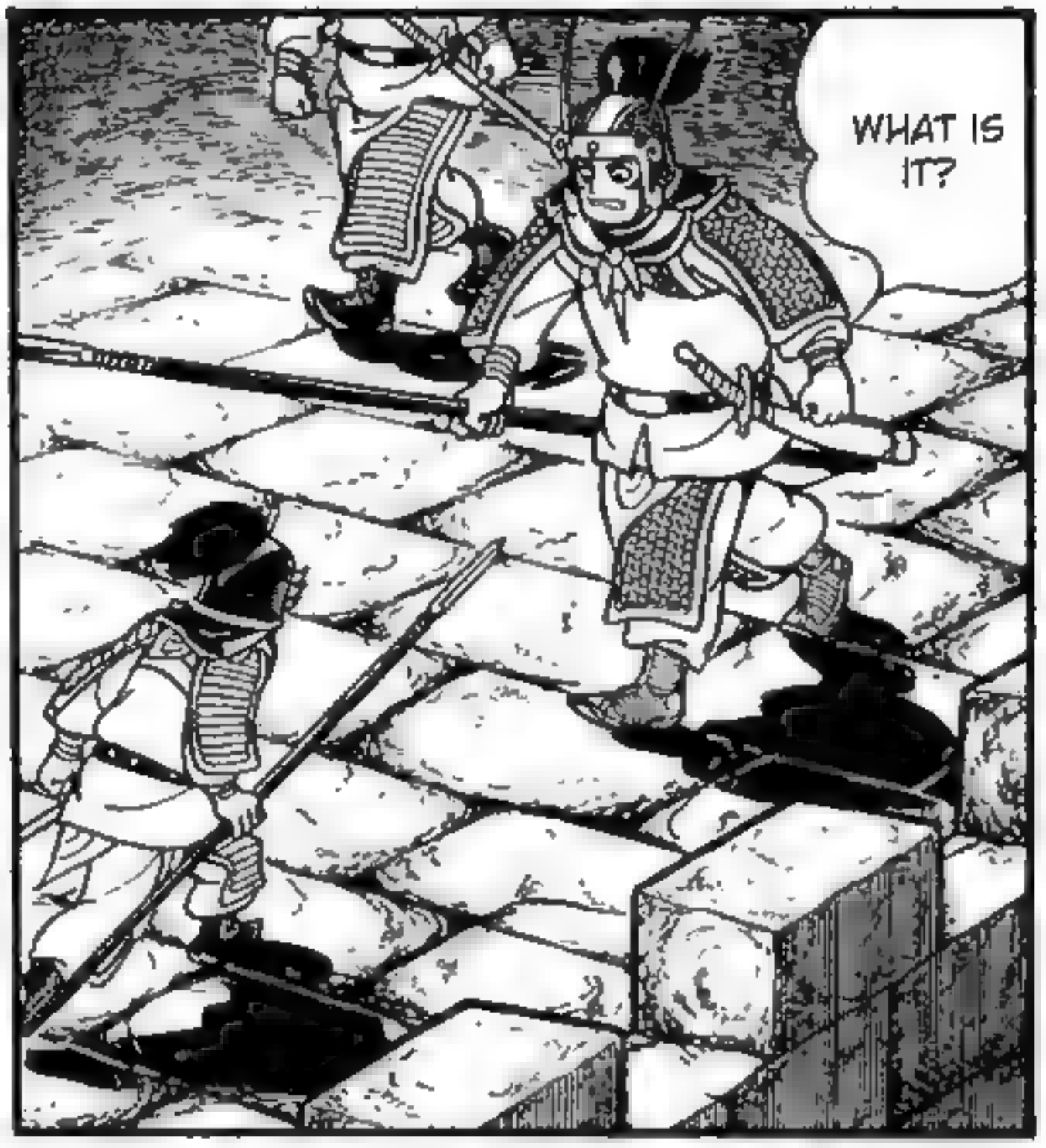
NO, NO. I SHOULD BE THANKING SIR FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THAT WILL BE A GREAT LOAD OFF THESE FRAIL OLD SHOULDERS OF MINE.


GENERAL
LU BU!
AHH!


THERE WAS SOMETHING SHINING AMIDST THE TALL GRASSES OVER THERE!

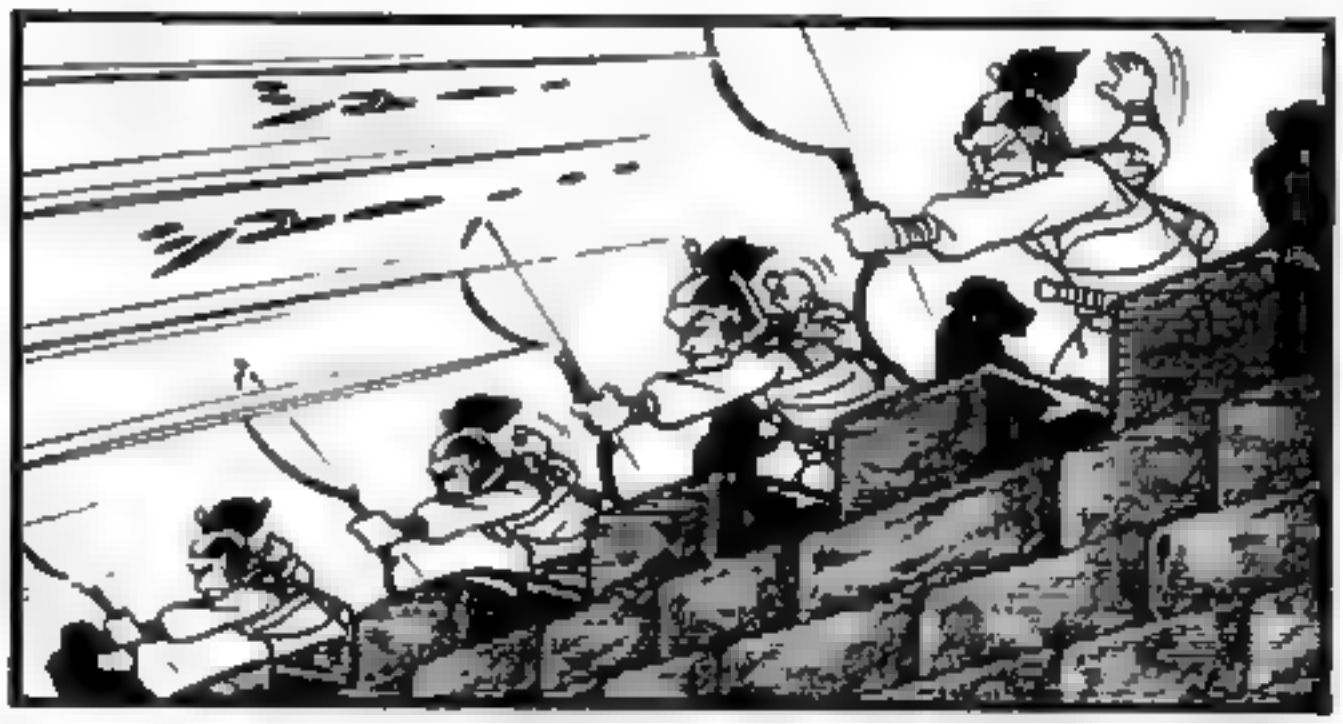

WHAT!?

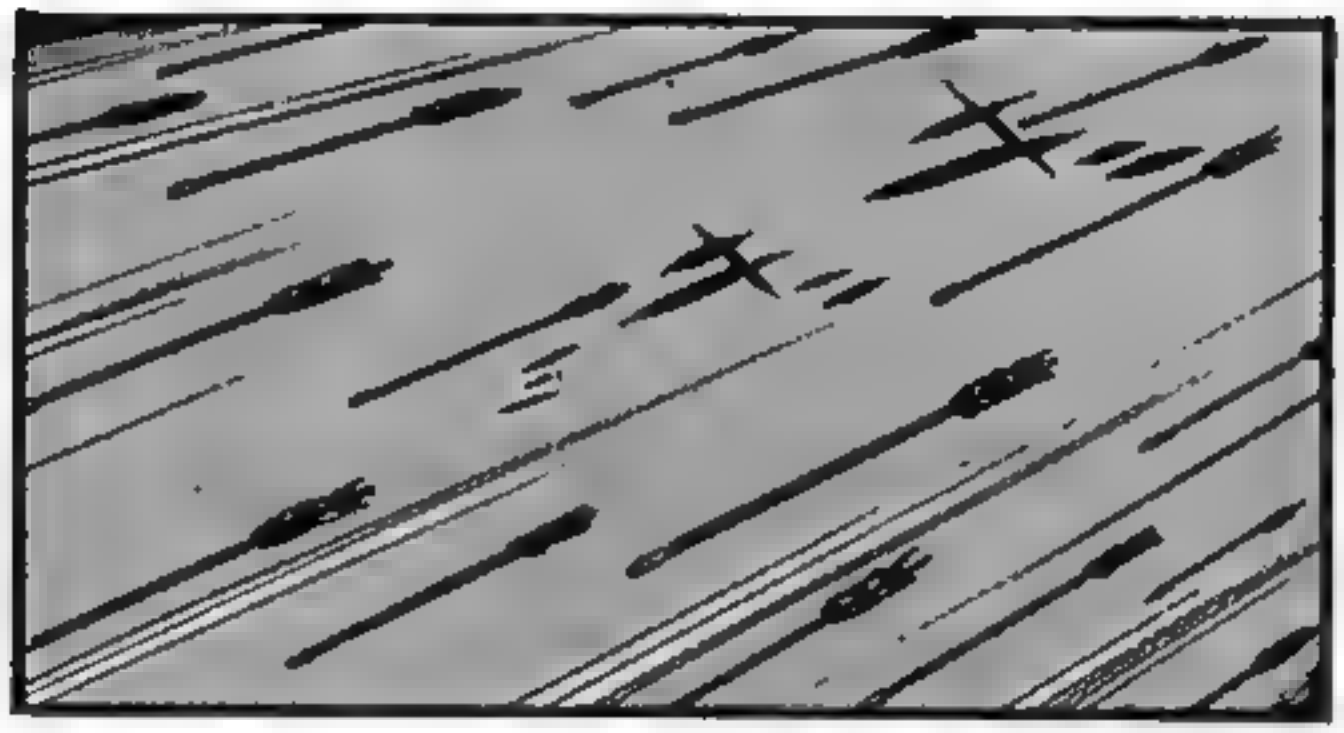

WHAT IS IT?





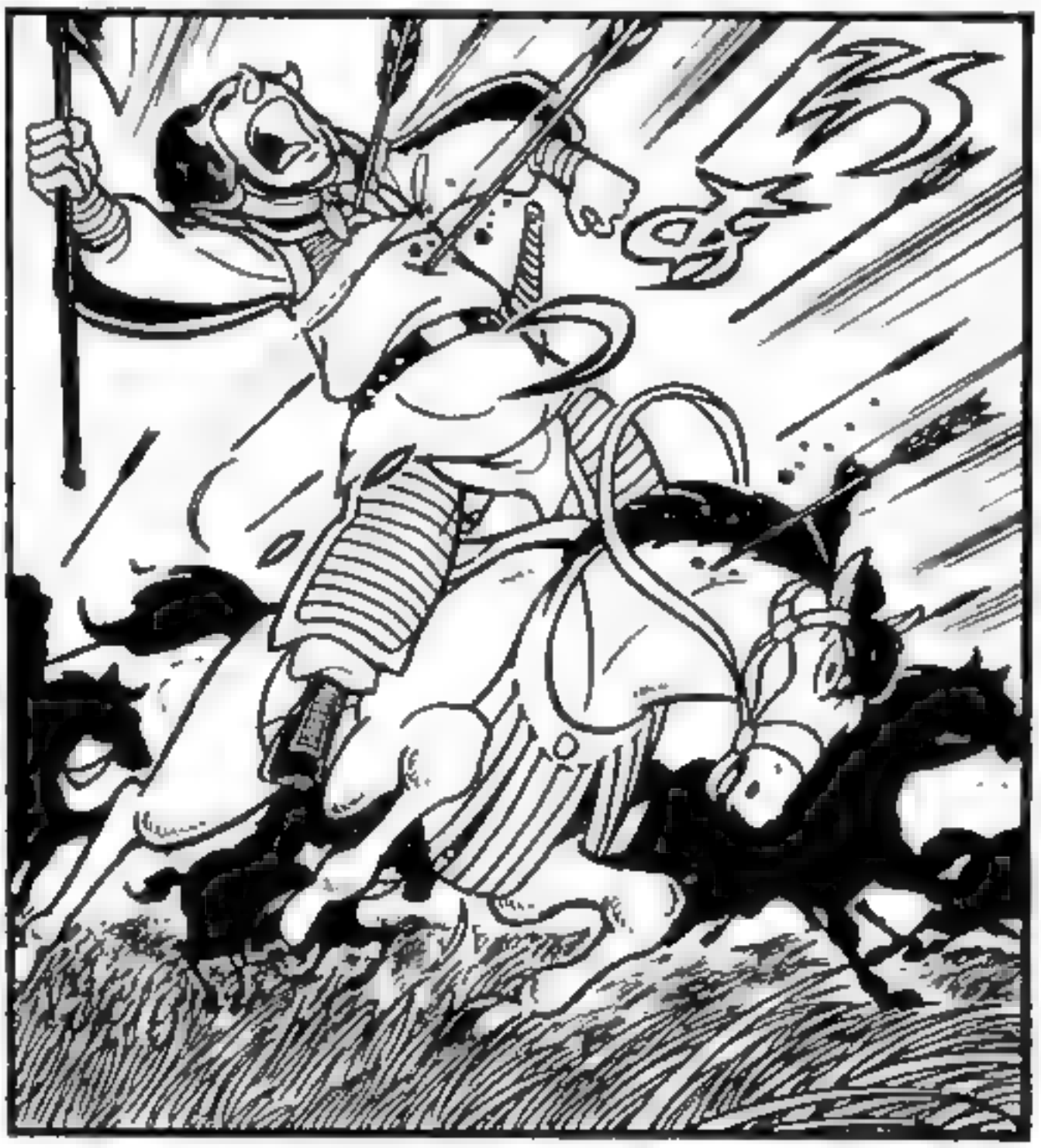
AHHH! IT'S AN ATTACK!

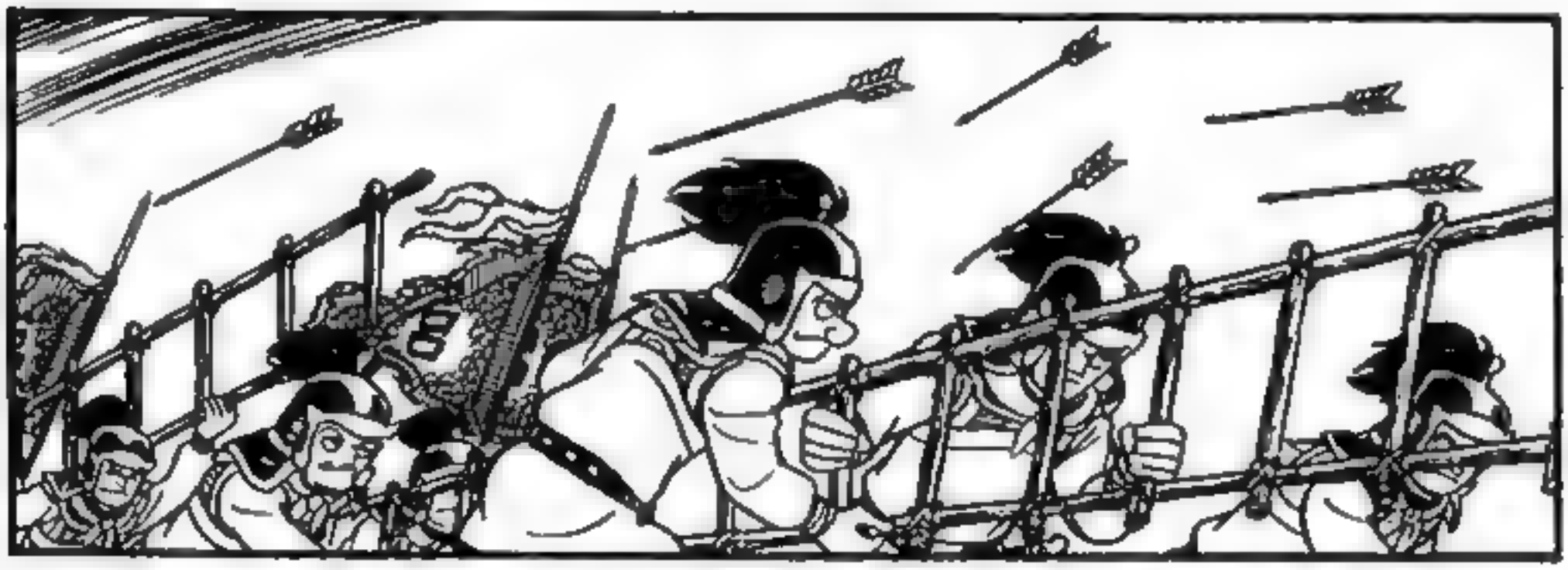


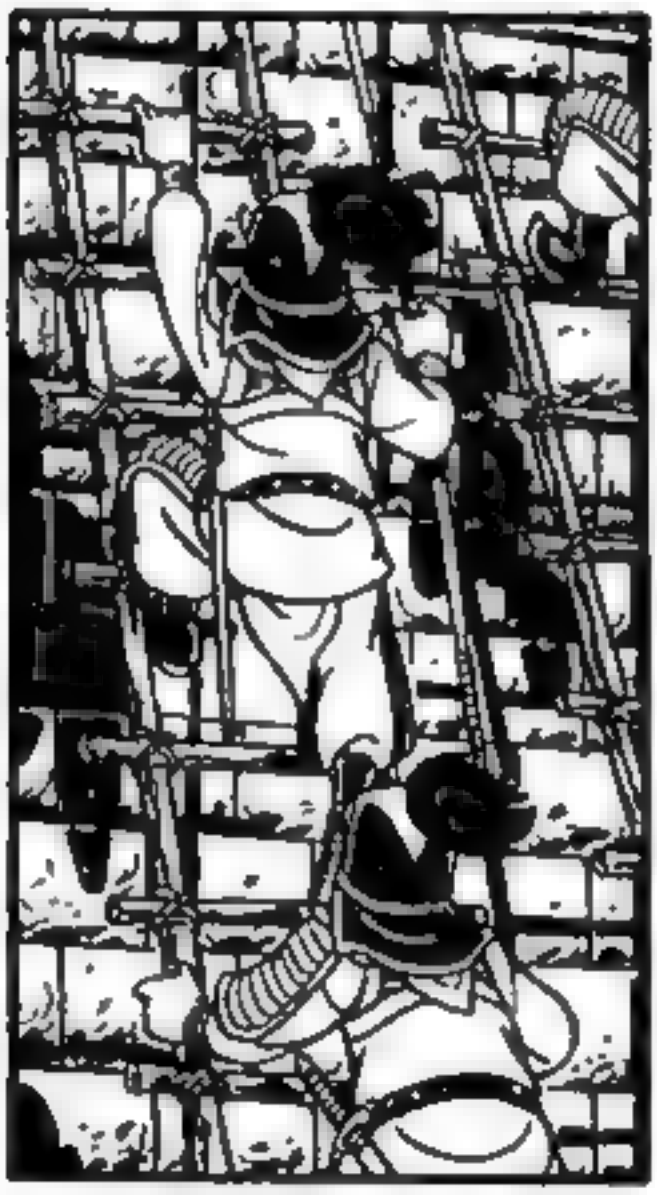


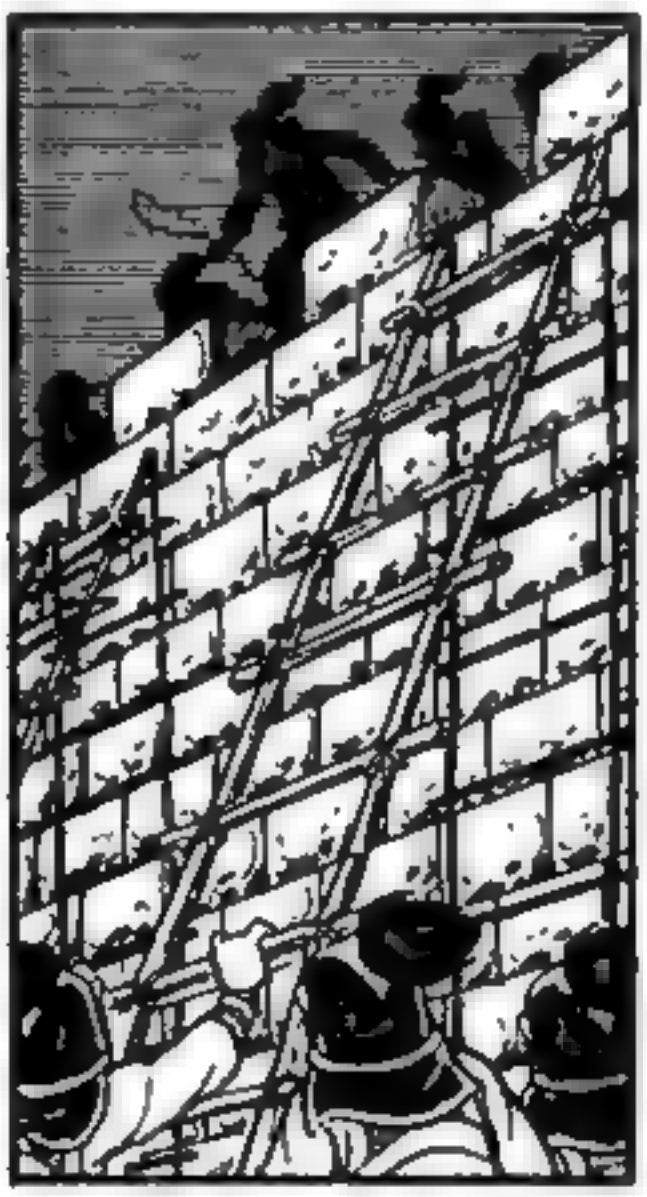

SHOOT!

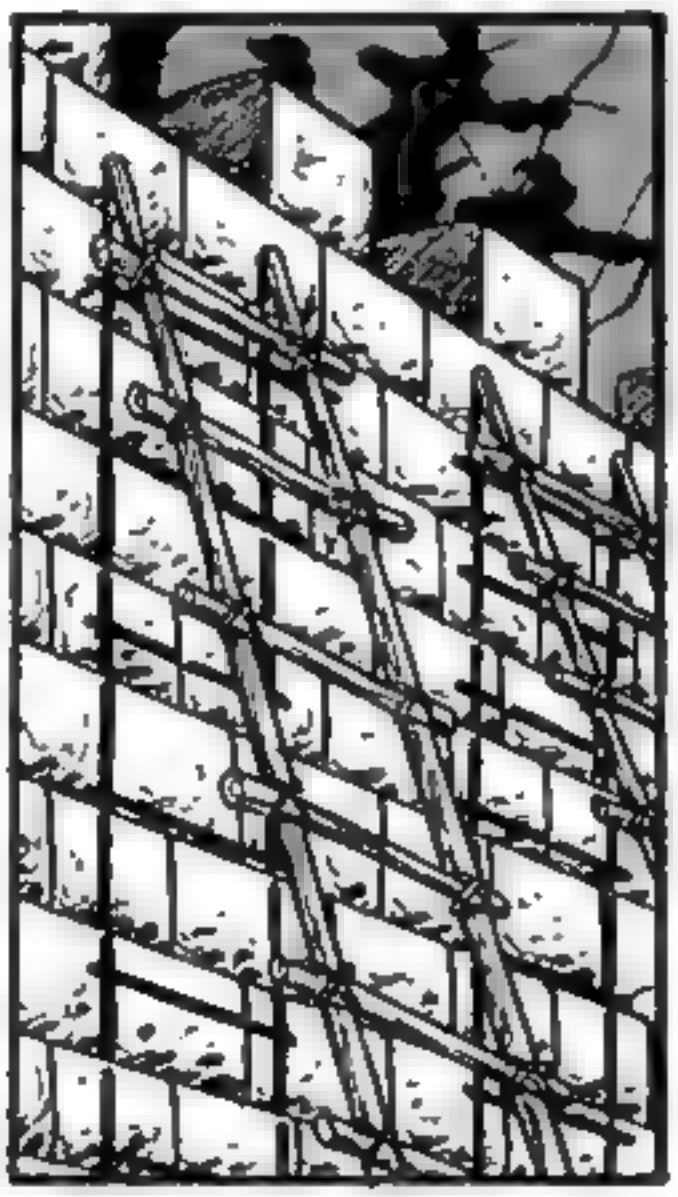


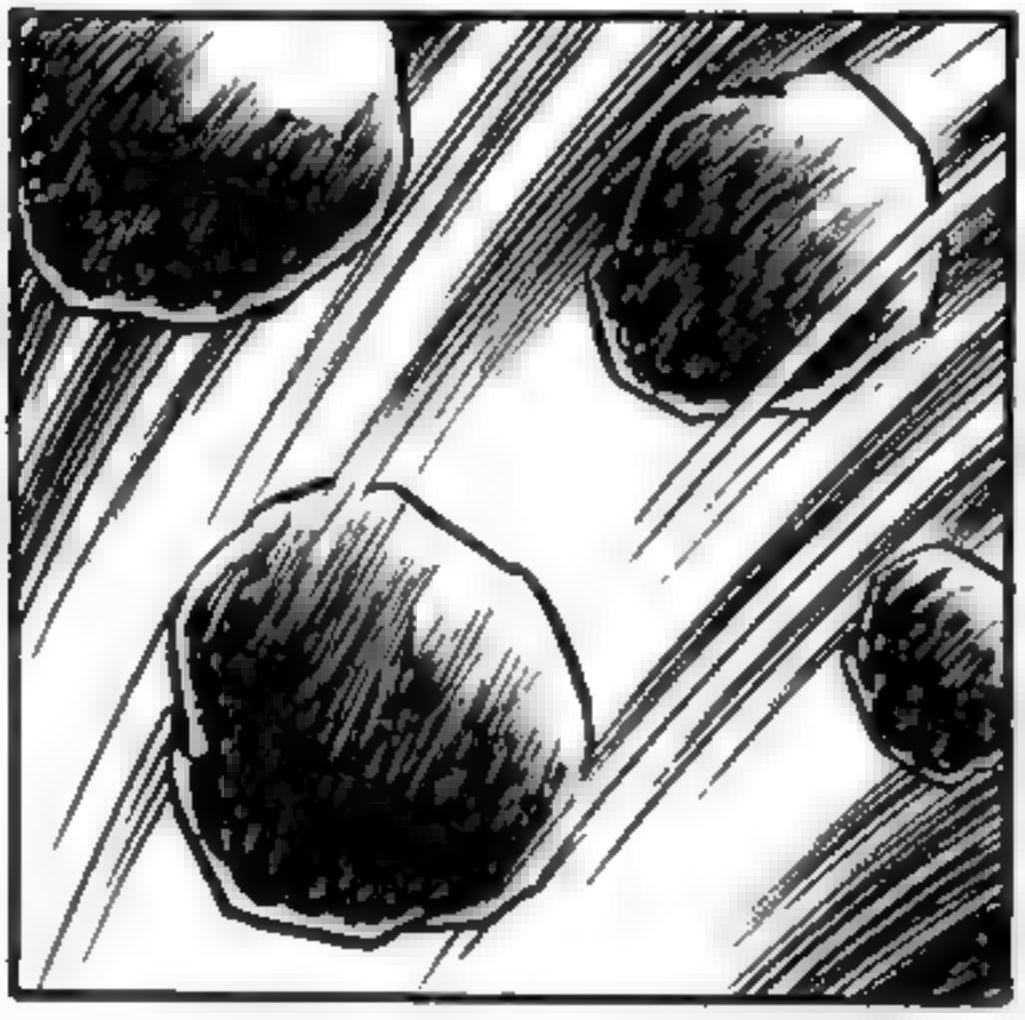




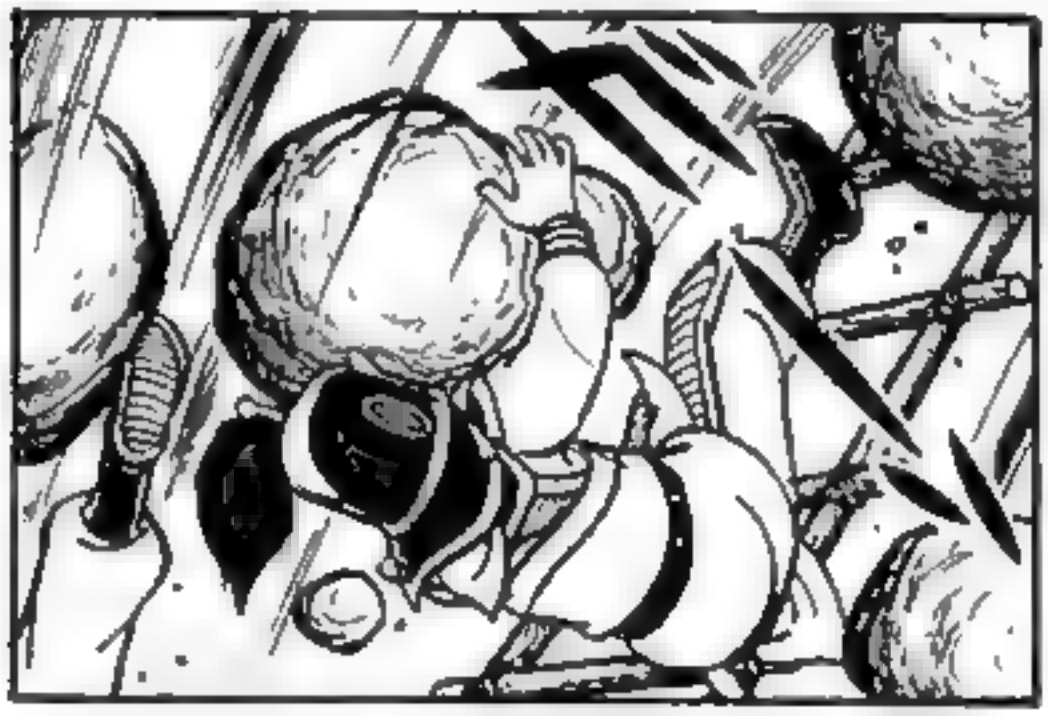


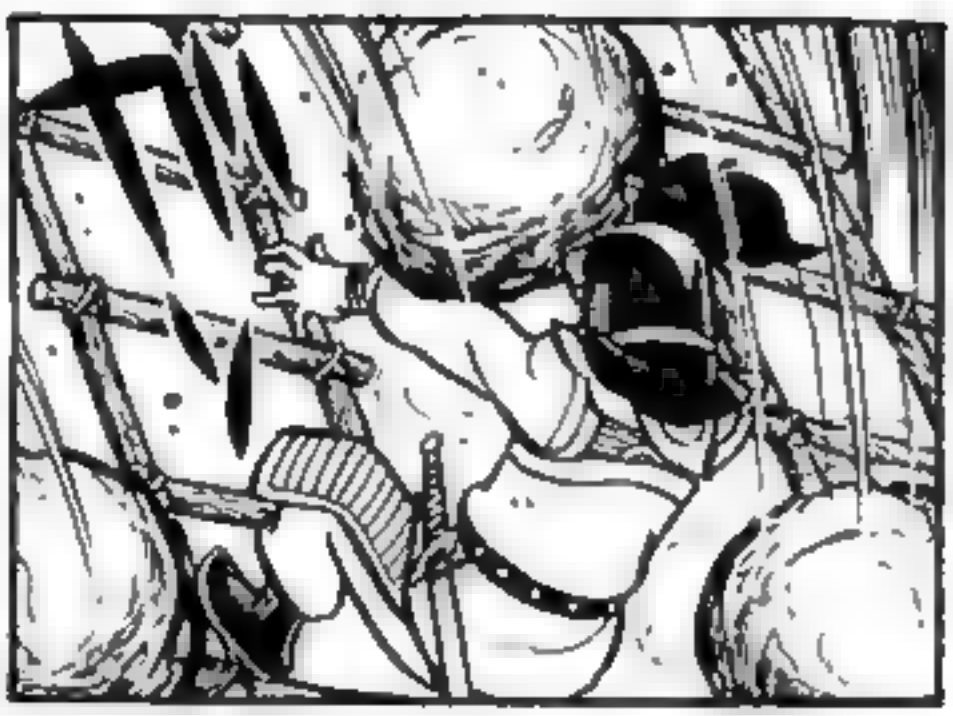


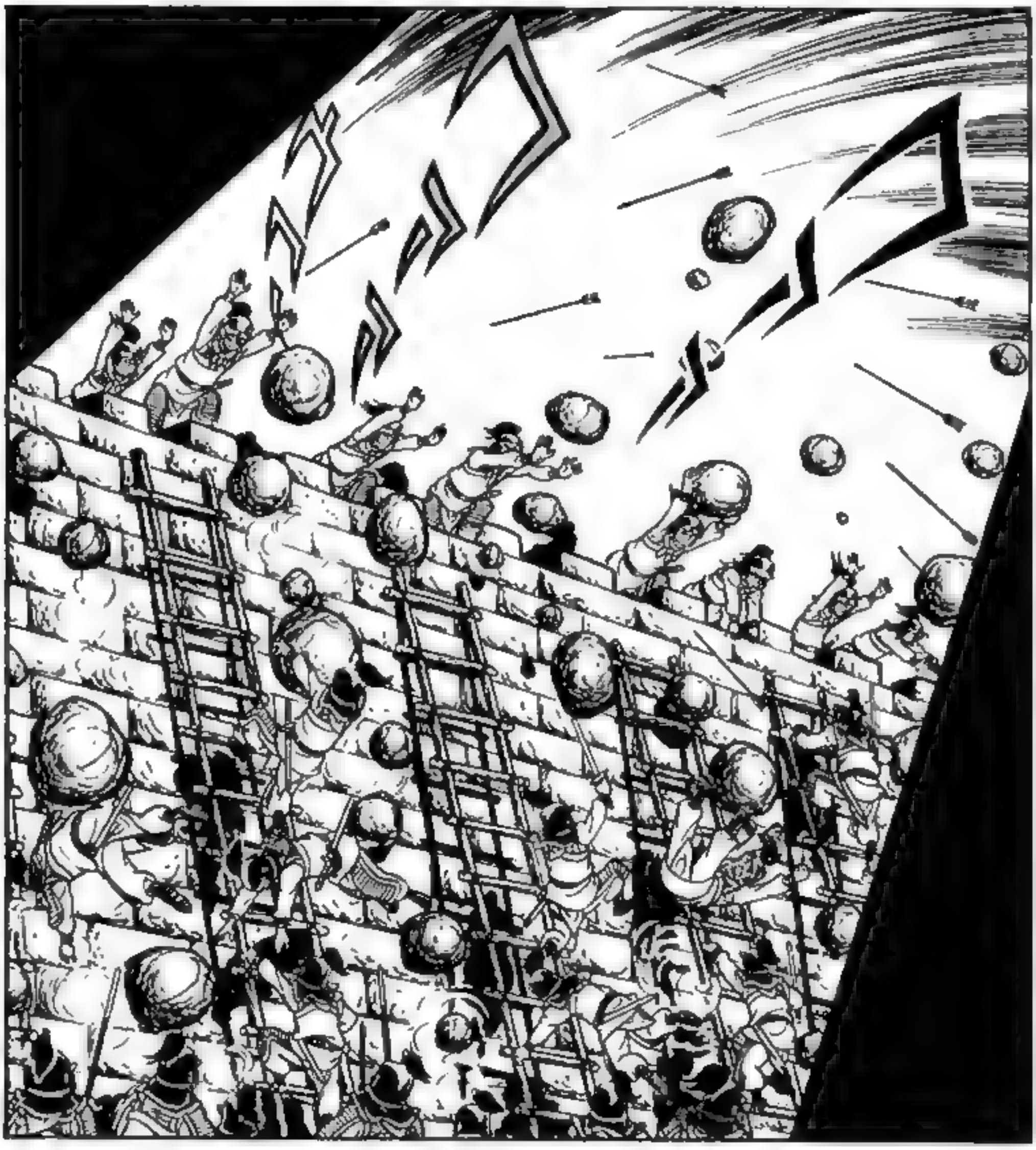








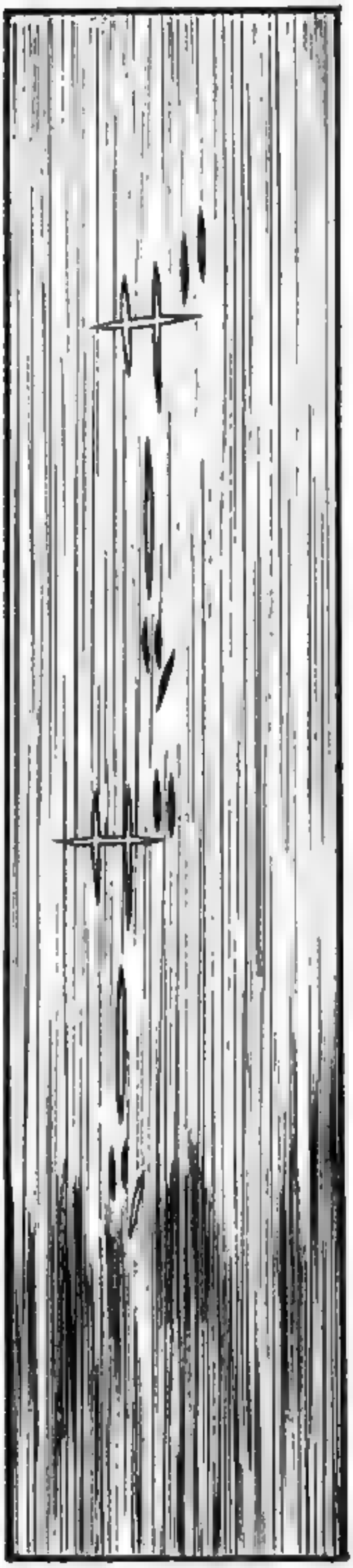


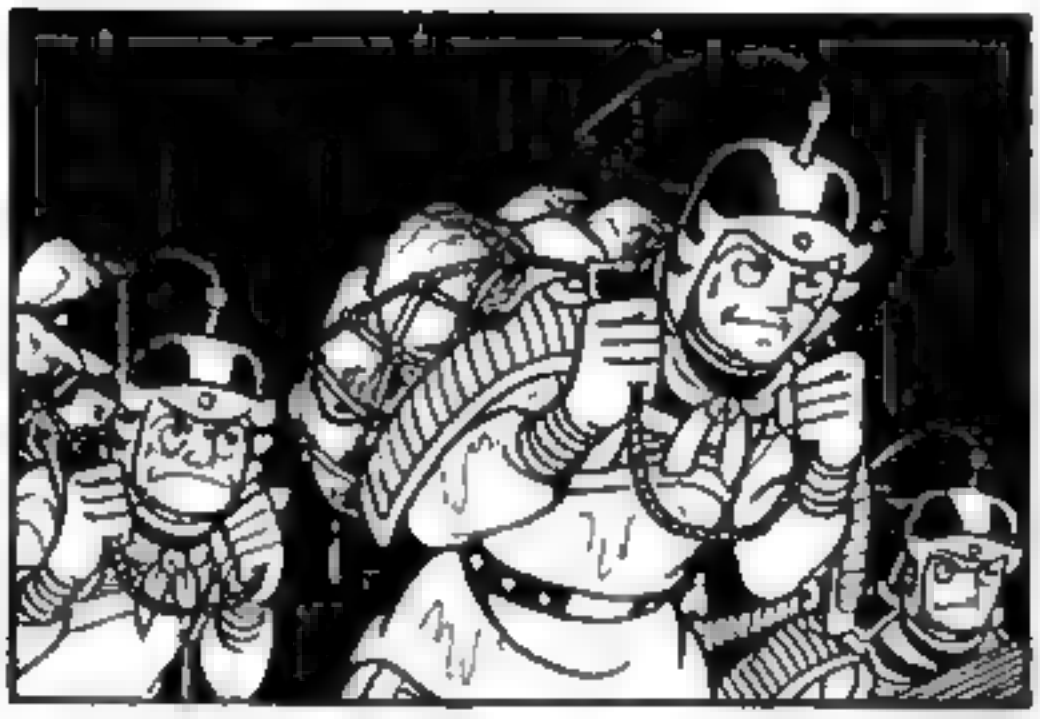







GATHER THE STONES AND ARROWS BEFORE THEIR NEXT ATTACK!
THE NEXT WAVE WILL COME SOON!





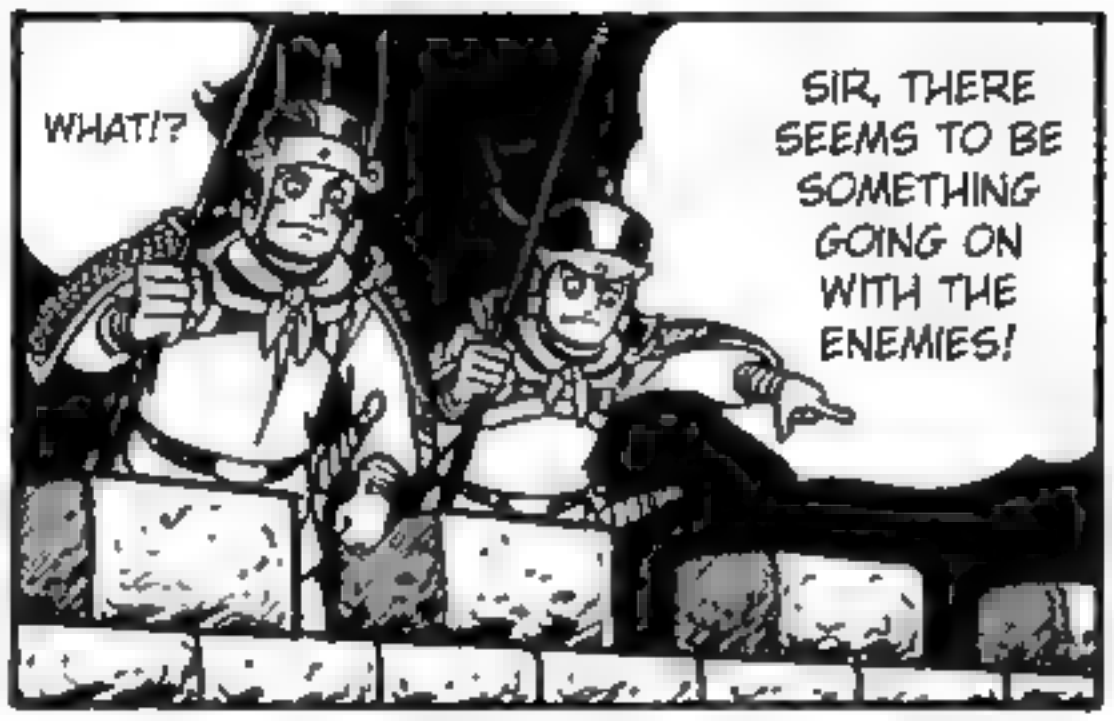





HMM?




AHH!


WHAT!?
SIR, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING GOING ON WITH THE ENEMIES!






THEY APPEAR TO BE FIGHTING AMONGST EACH OTHER!

YES, SIR.

I SHALL LEAVE THE TASK OF INSTIGATING A REBELLION TO YOU!

OPEN THE GATES!

CHEN GUI MUST HAVE SUCCEEDED!

NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO CRUSH YUAN SHU'S ARMY!




LU BU'S ARMY HAS COME OUT!

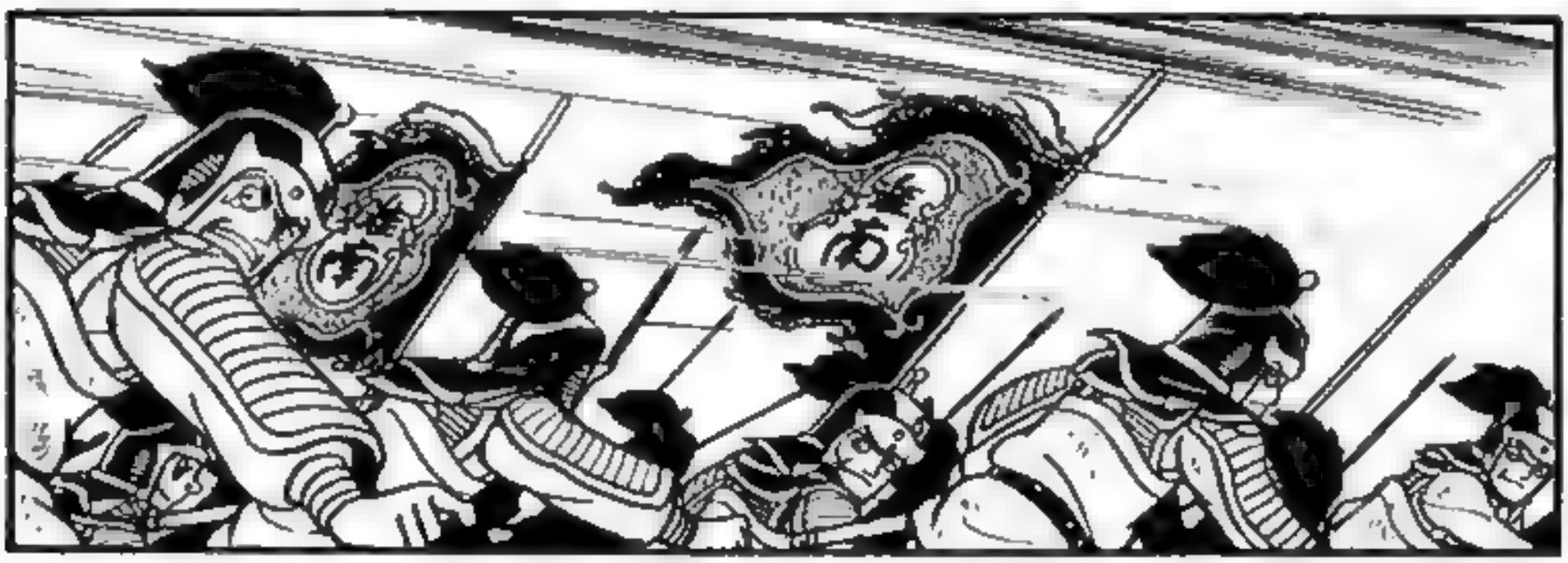

AH!





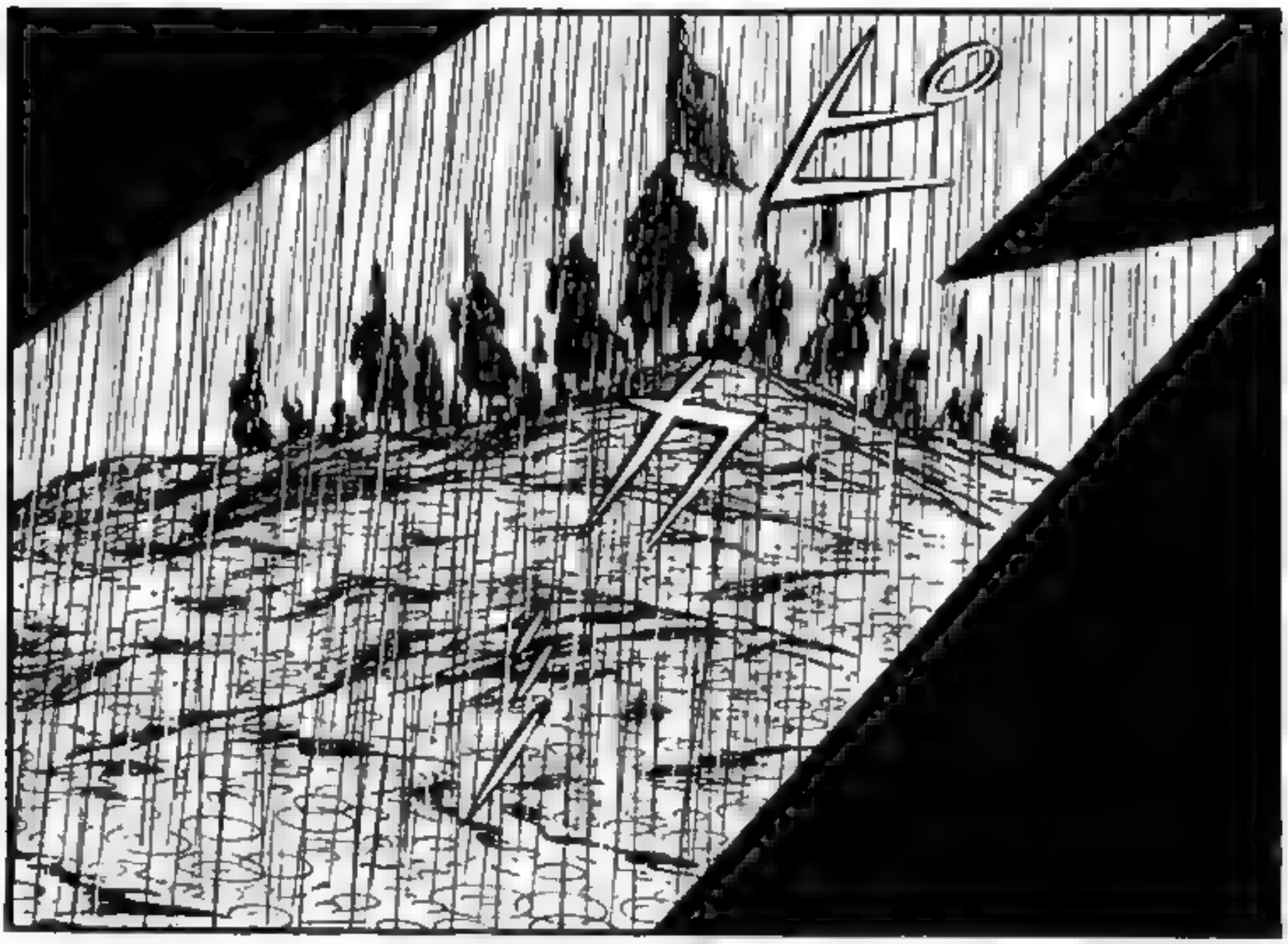







AH!


YUAN SHU, WHERE ARE YOU!?


END

I SHALL FINALLY TAKE YOUR HEAD TODAY!

LU BU...!

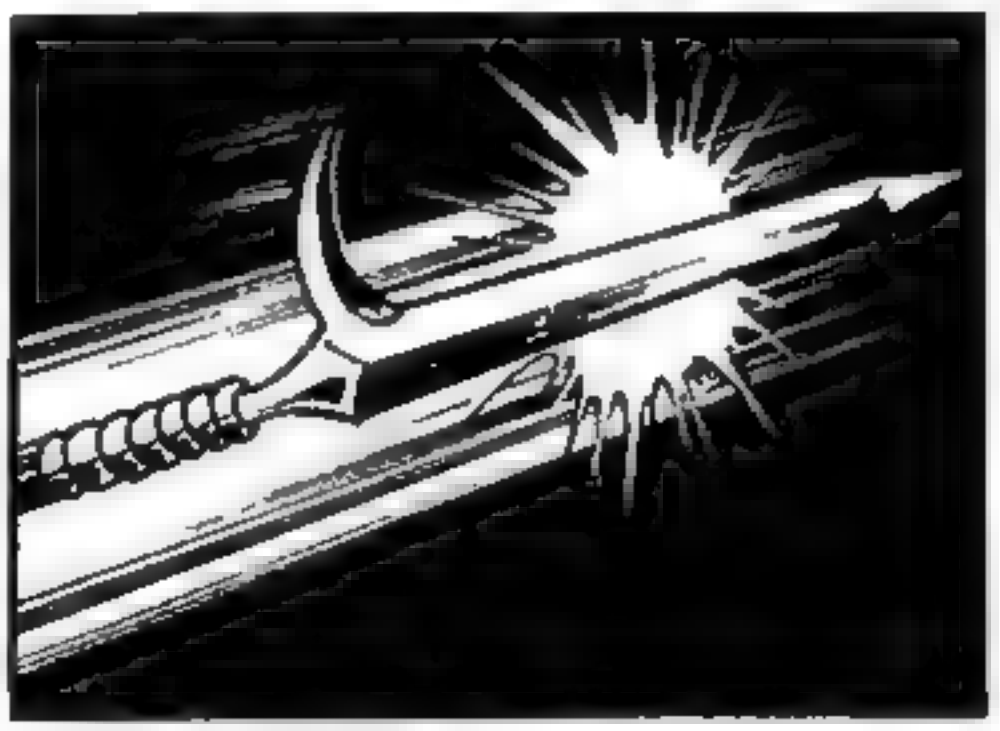
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, I'LL BE THE ONE TO TAKE YOUR HEAD FIRST!

SO THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE!

KILL HIM!

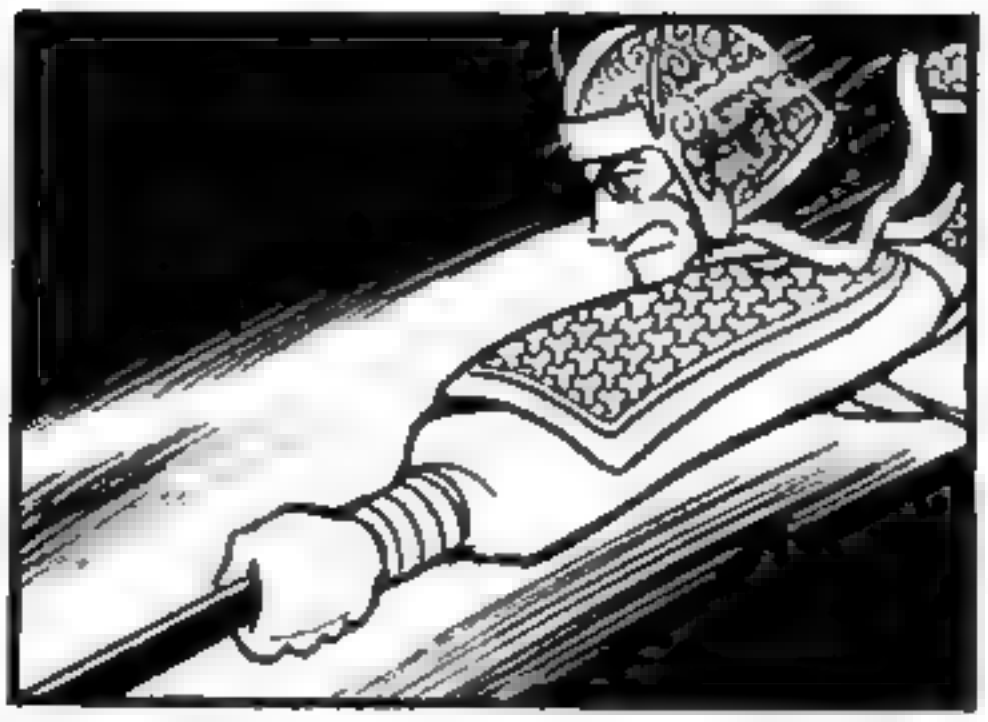

PATHETIC RUNTS!







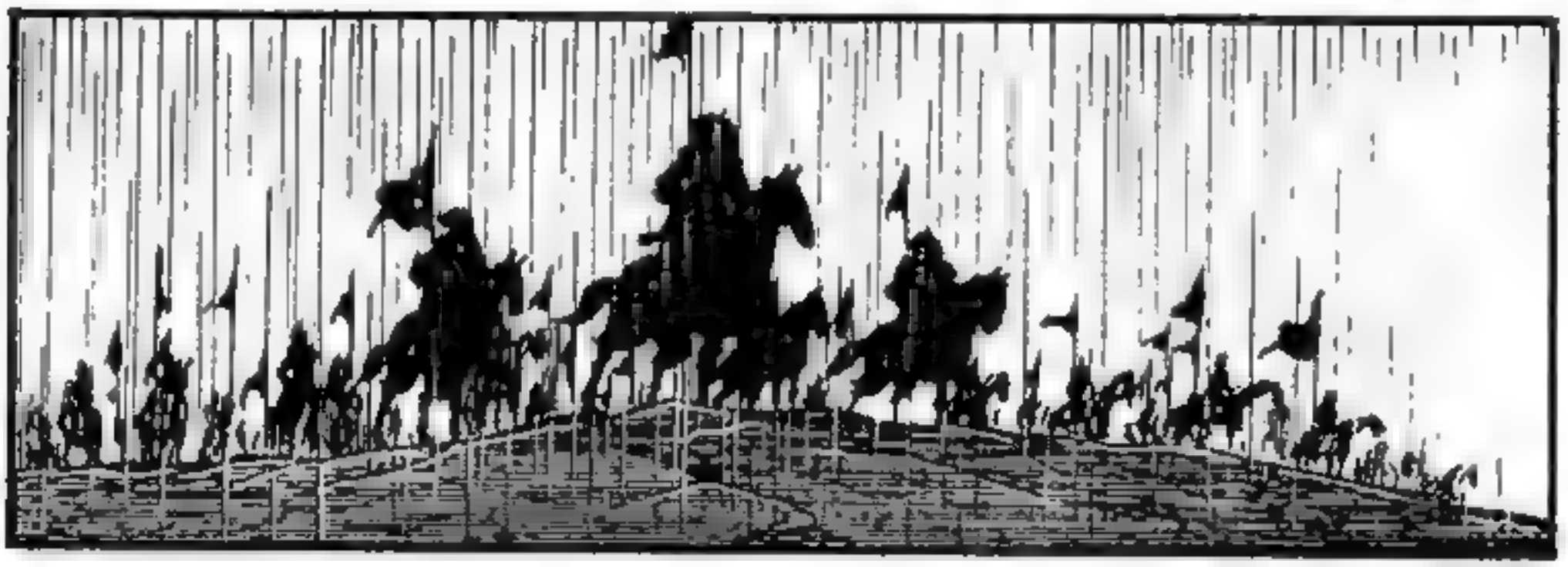




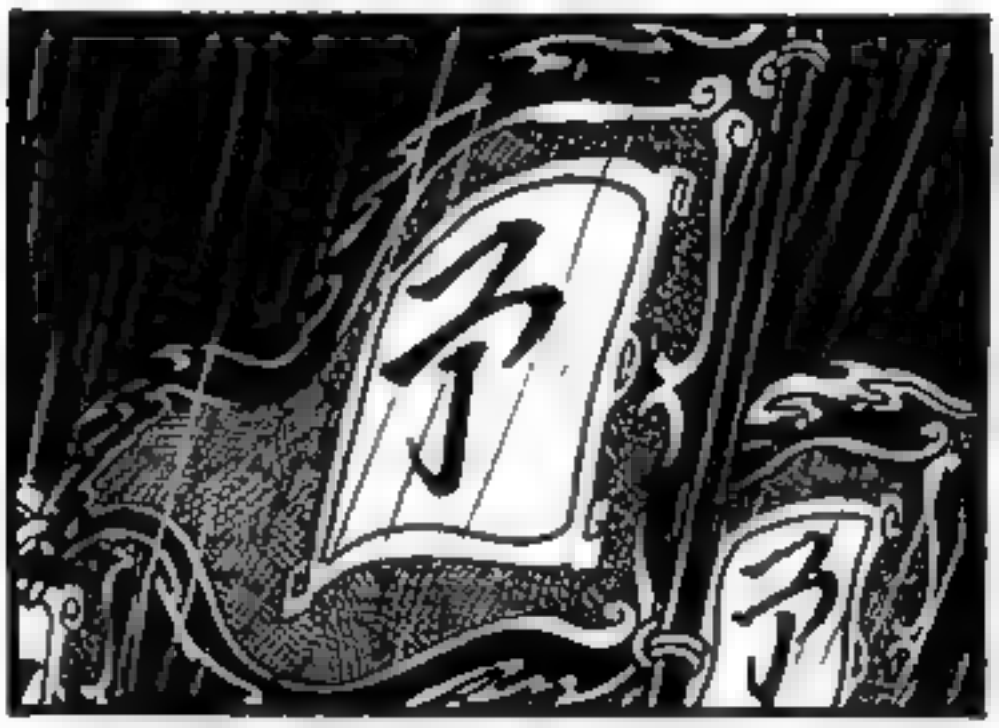

HM?

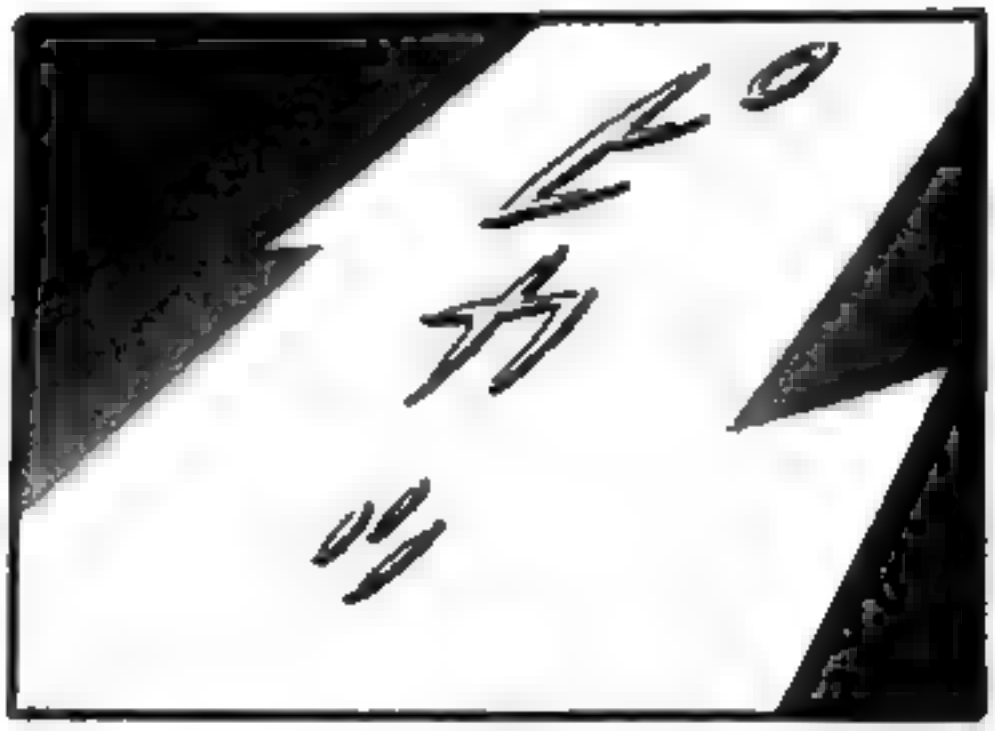

WHAT ARE YOU FOOLS DOING!? THE ENEMY IS ONLY ONE MAN!


HUH?



FLAG (予) READS YUZHOU

















ATTACK!

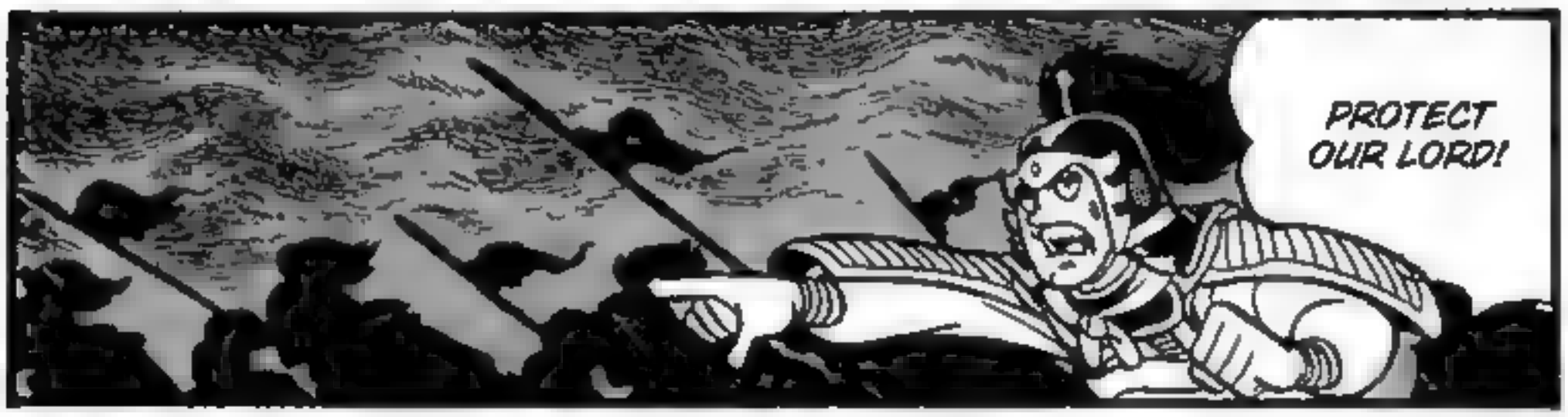



YES...
MY LORD, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO RETREAT FOR NOW.




RETREAT!


DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!


PROTECT OUR LORD!


DAMN ANNOYING FOOLS...!

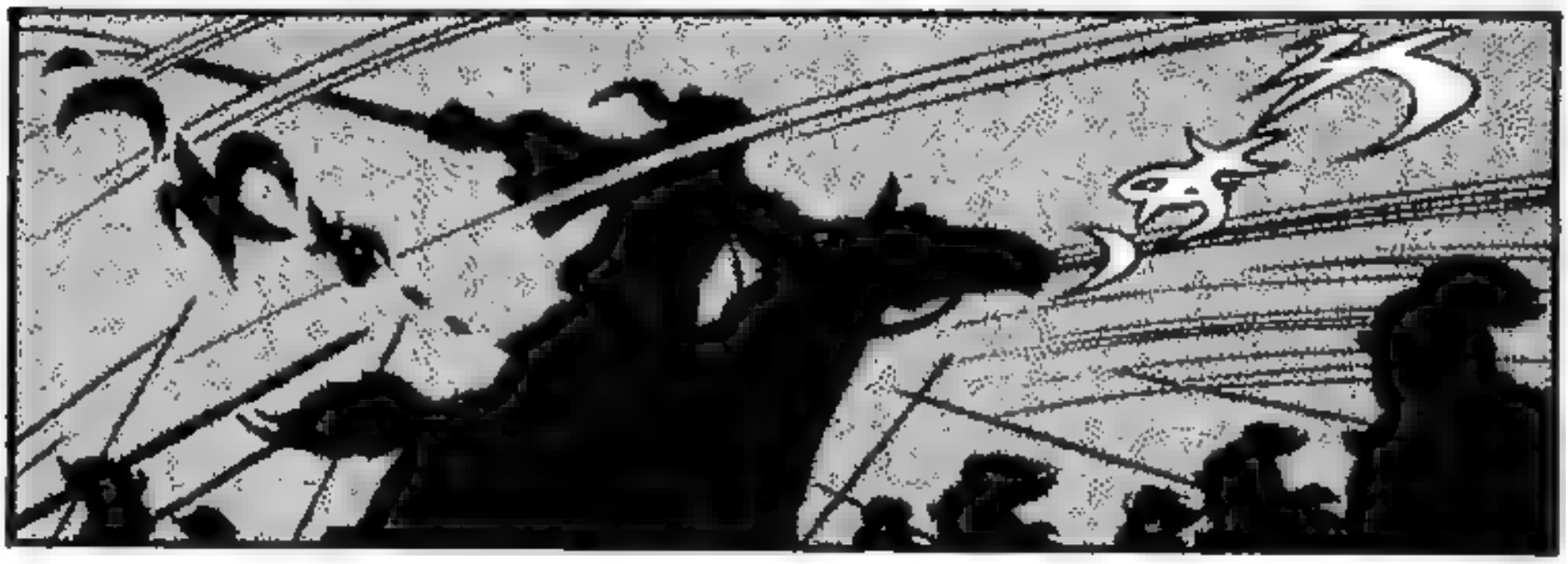


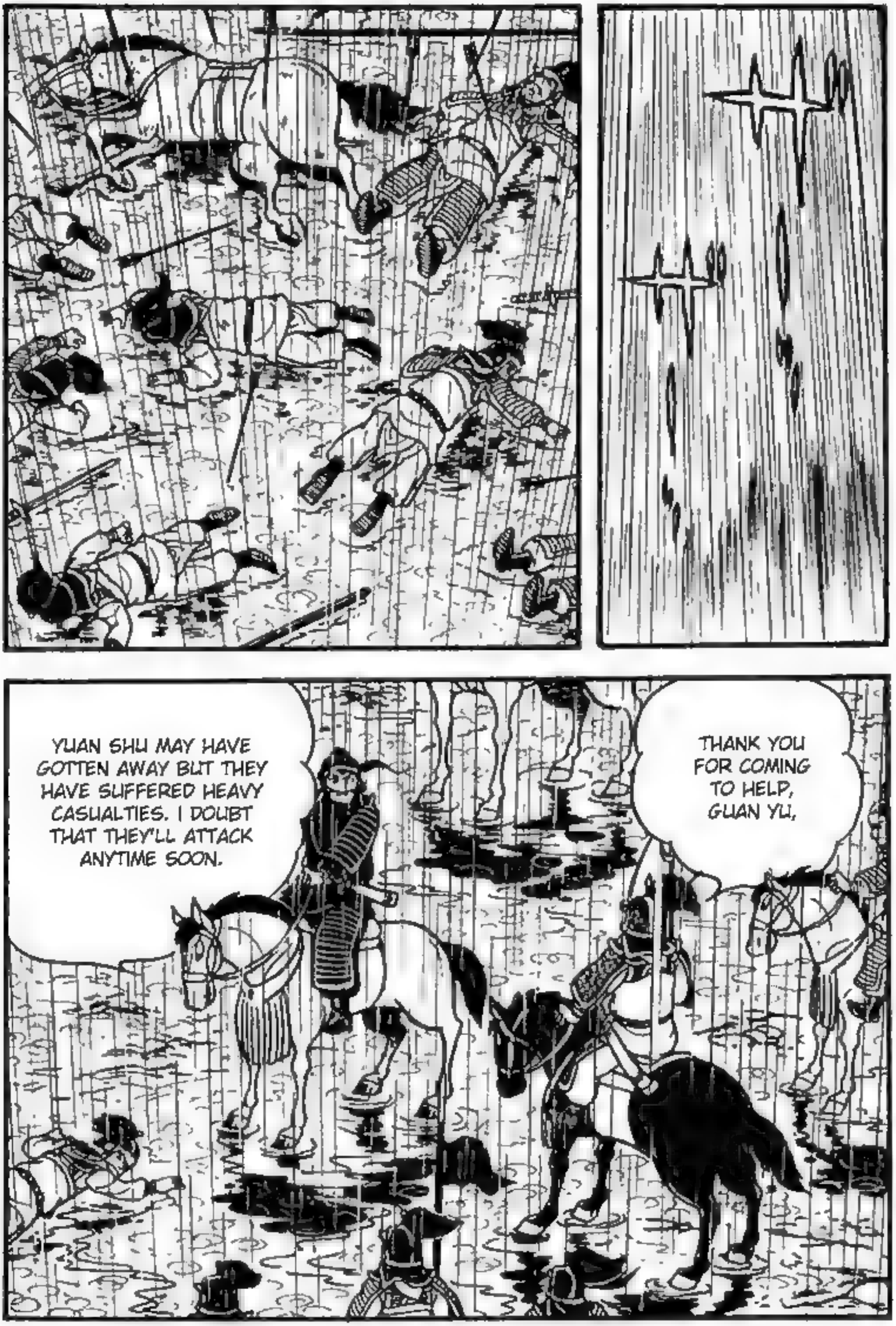











YUAN SHU MAY HAVE GOTTEN AWAY BUT THEY HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES. I DOUBT THAT THEY'LL ATTACK ANYTIME SOON.
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO HELP, GUAN YU,

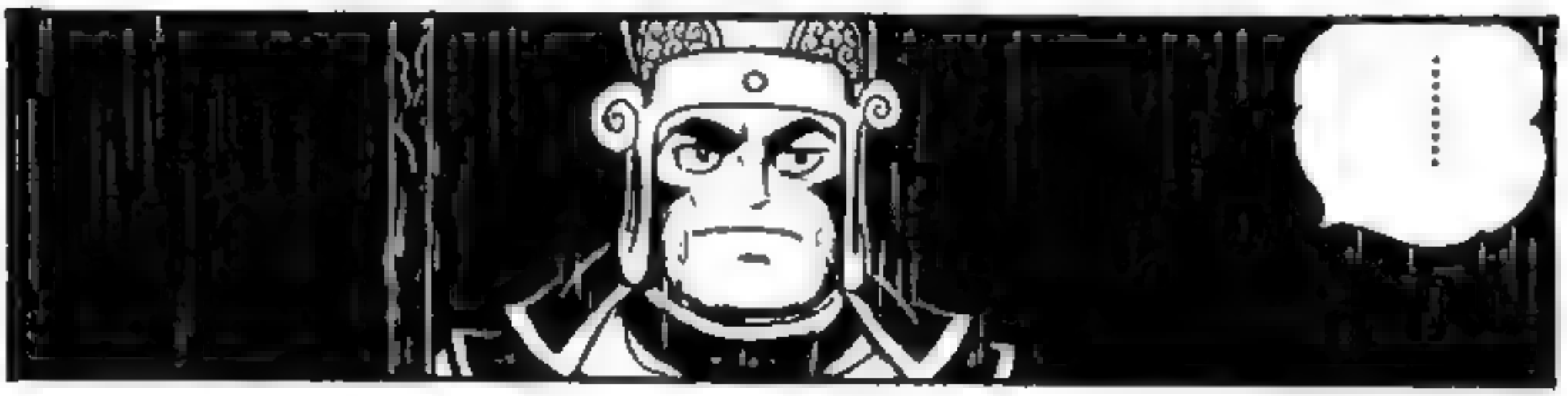

I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO REFUSE. TO BE HONEST, LIKE MY BROTHER ZHANG FEI, I AM NOT VERY FOND OF YOU.


PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO INVITE YOU TO A BANQUET TO CELEBRATE OUR GREAT VICTORY.

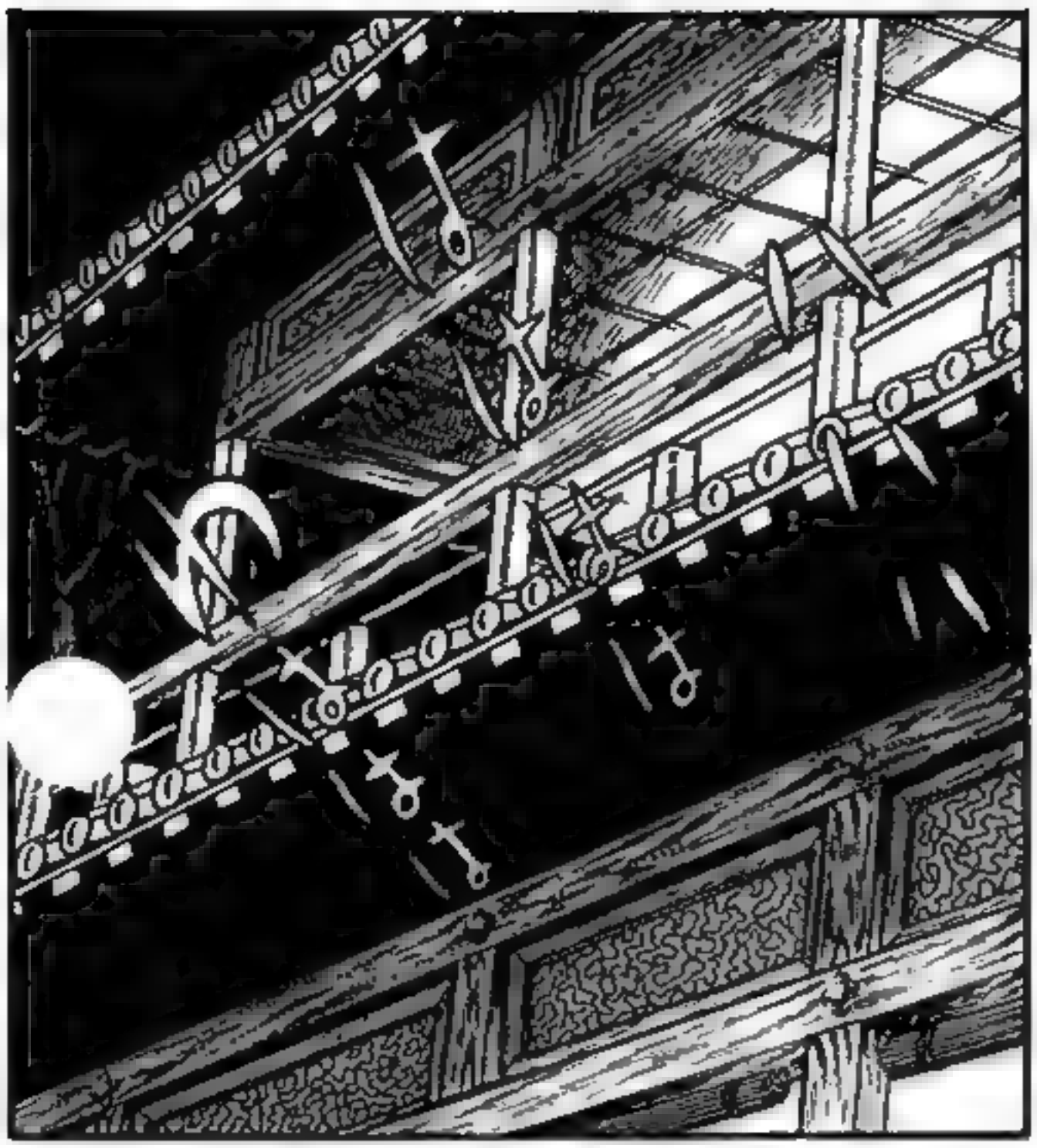

ALRIGHT MEN, LET US RETURN BACK TO YUZHOU!






.....


DRINK AND EAT TO YOUR HEARTS' CONTENT, MY MEN!




OH COME ON, THIS MUCH IS NOTHING!
I DON'T THINK I CAN DRINK ANOTHER GLASS...
ZZZZ...!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR.

CHEN GUI, TODAY'S VICTORY WAS ALL THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS. I SHALL BE SURE TO GREATLY REWARD YOU.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING CAN BE A BAD THING. THE MEN MIGHT START PETTY QUARRELS WITH EACH OTHER TO VIE FOR SIR'S ATTENTION.

SIR IS ALREADY SURROUNDED BY MANY TALENTED MEN.

WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO WITH GENERALS HAN XIAN AND YANG FENG?

HMM, YES, GOOD IDEA.

I SUGGEST SIR TO HAVE HAN XIAN AND YANG FENG WATCH OVER THE REGIONS AROUND HUASHAN MOUNTAINS.

YES, THANK YOU AGAIN.

I AM QUITE TIRED SO PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR THE NIGHT, SIR.

WOULDN'T THEY BE USEFUL ALLIES FOR PLOTTING LU BU'S DOWNFALL?

NO, THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION.

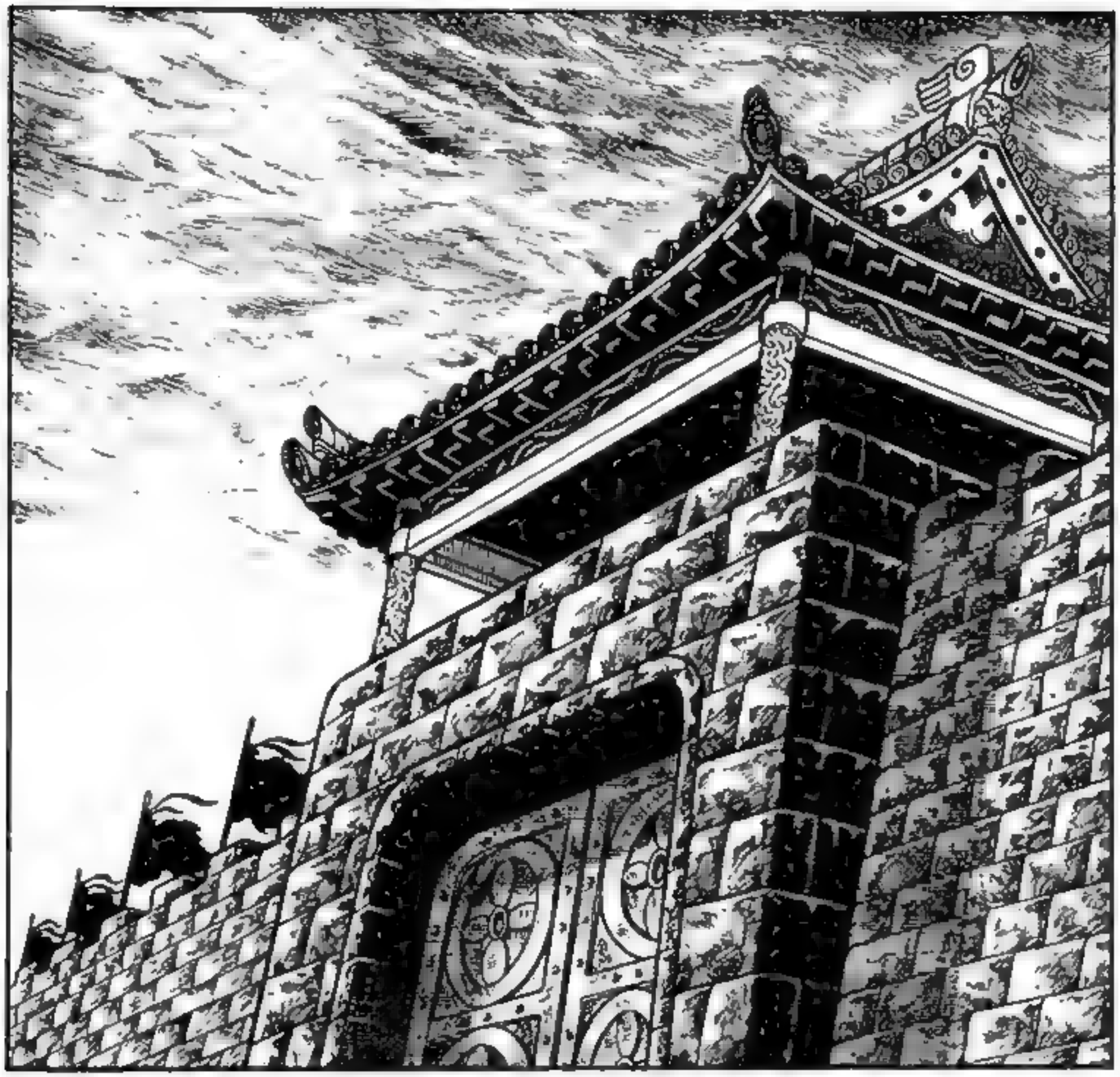
FATHER, WHY DID YOU SUGGEST THAT TO LU BU?

KEEPING MEN LIKE THAT NEAR LU BU,

THOSE TWO CANNOT BE TRUSTED FOR THEY ARE EASILY SWAYED BY POWER AND MONEY. THEY WILL SURELY WAG THEIR TAILS LIKE DOGS TOWARDS LU BU AND WILL NOT HELP US.

WILL ONLY BE ANOTHER OBSTACLE TO OVERCOME FOR WHEN THE TIME COMES TO ELIMINATE LU BU.

# FALSE EMPEROR





THAT DAMN LU BU...!

DAMN IT, EVEN DRINKING DOESN'T HELP RELIEVE MY MOOD!

I SWEAR I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ONE DAY...!

I KNOW IT IS FRUSTRATING BUT WE MUST WAIT FOR NOW TO RECOVER OUR LOSSES BEFORE ATTACKING AGAIN.

YOUR HIGHNESS, OUR RECENT DEFEAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF GENERALS HAN XIAN AND YANG FENG UNEXPECTEDLY TURNING AGAINST US AND DEFECTING TO LU BU'S SIDE.

AH!

I KNOW THAT ALREADY YOU FOOLS! THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M SO ANNOYED!

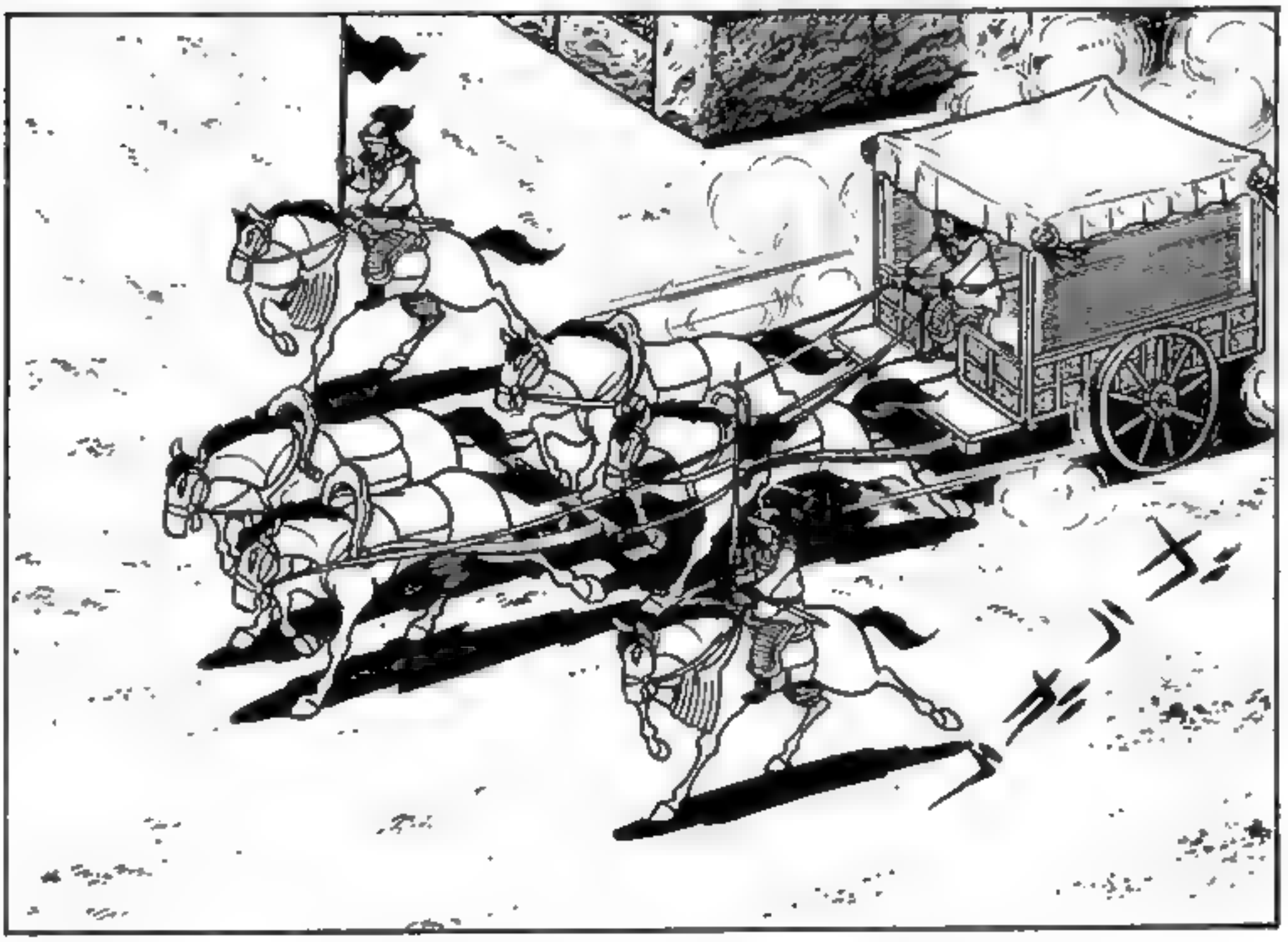
THAT'S RIGHT! I FORGOT ABOUT SUN CE!

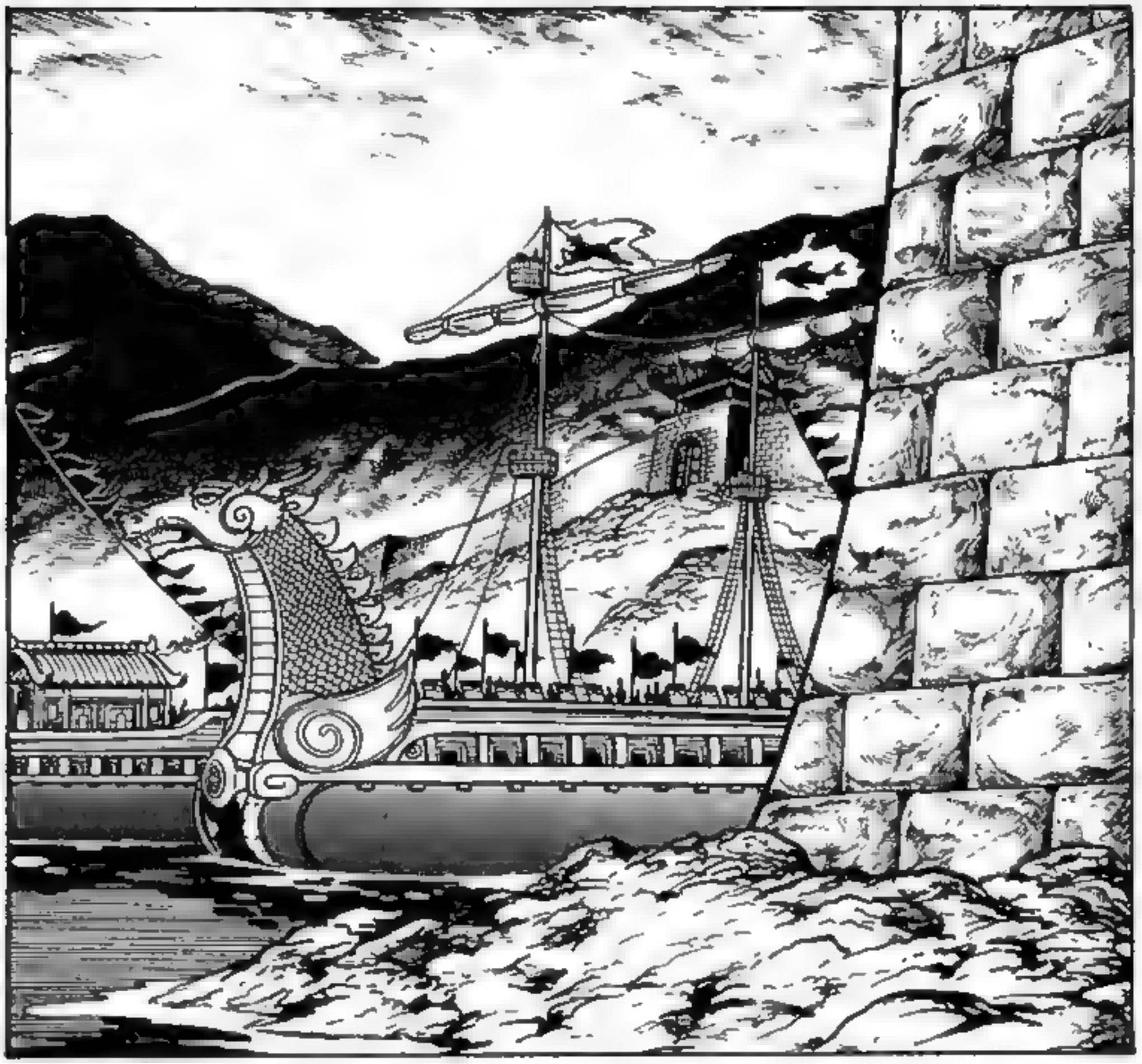
I'LL ASK HIM FOR HELP!

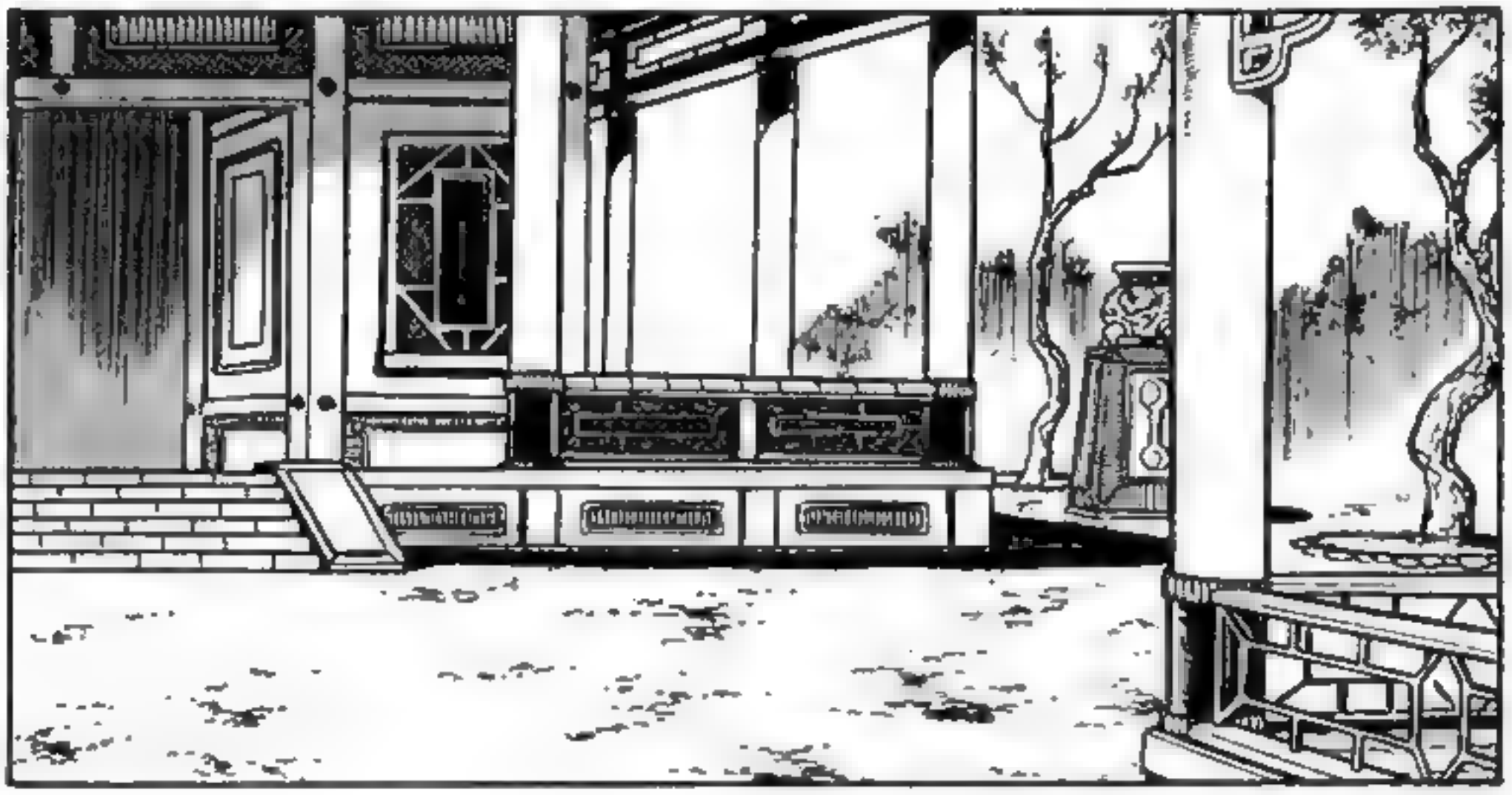
SUN CE IS NOW DOING VERY WELL FOR HIMSELF, RULING OVER THE REGIONS IN JIANGDONG AND JIANGNAN.

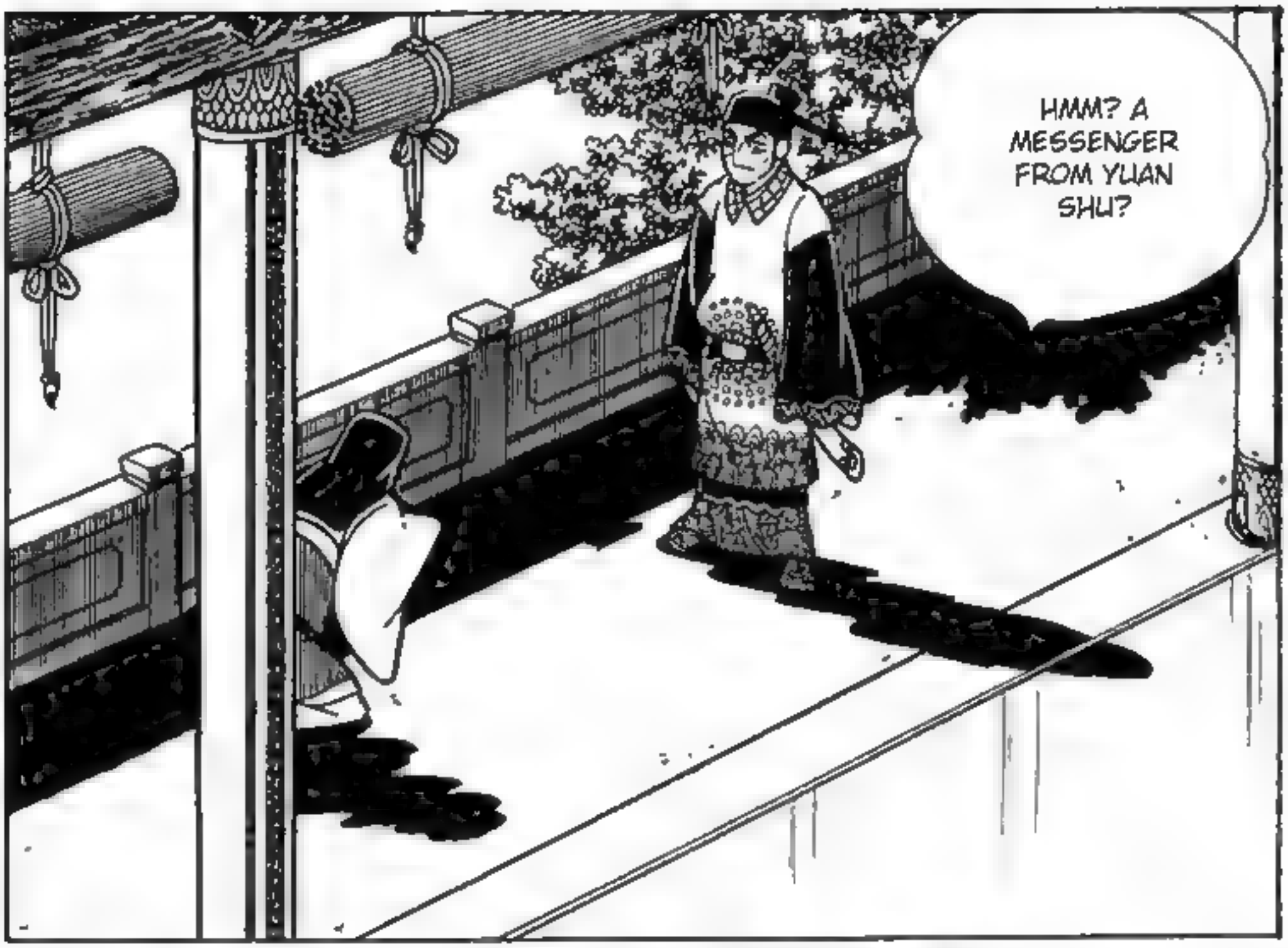

SOMEONE, SEND A MESSENGER TO SUN CE IMMEDIATELY!


IT'S ALL THANKS TO ME THAT HE'S WHERE HE IS TODAY. I'M SURE HE WOULD HELP ME OUT.

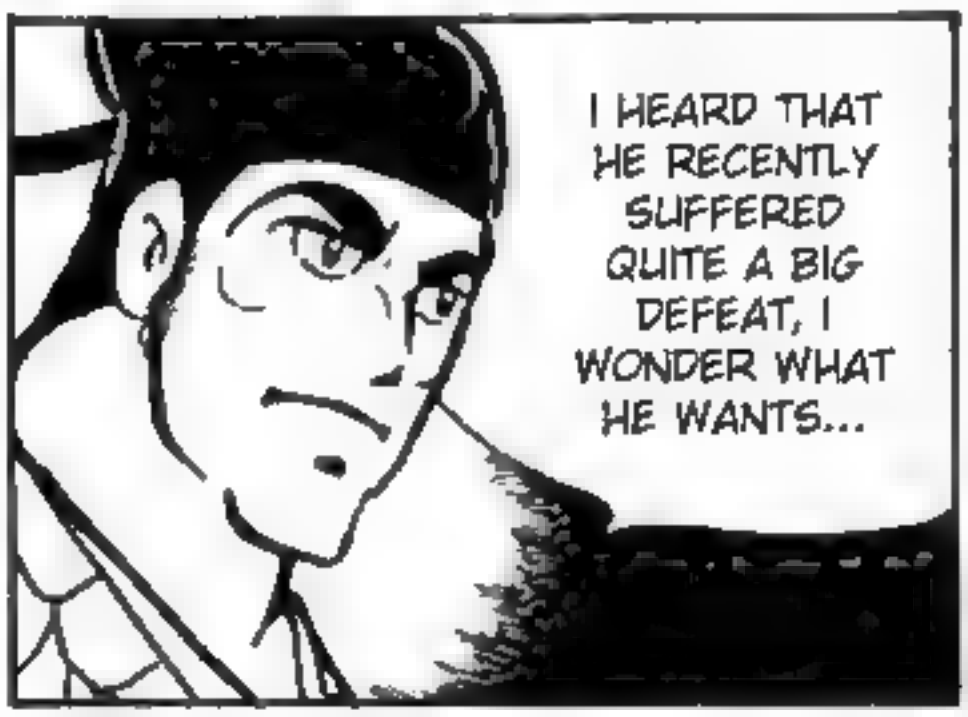







HMM? A MESSENGER FROM YUAN SHU?


YES, SIR.
ALRIGHT, LET HIM IN.


I HEARD THAT HE RECENTLY SUFFERED QUITE A BIG DEFEAT, I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS...



I AM FINE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE SIR ON THIS FINE DAY. HAS SIR BEEN FEELING WELL THESE DAYS?

*HMM, SO HE'S ALREADY THINKING OF HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR NOW THAT HE HAS THE IMPERIAL SEAL...*

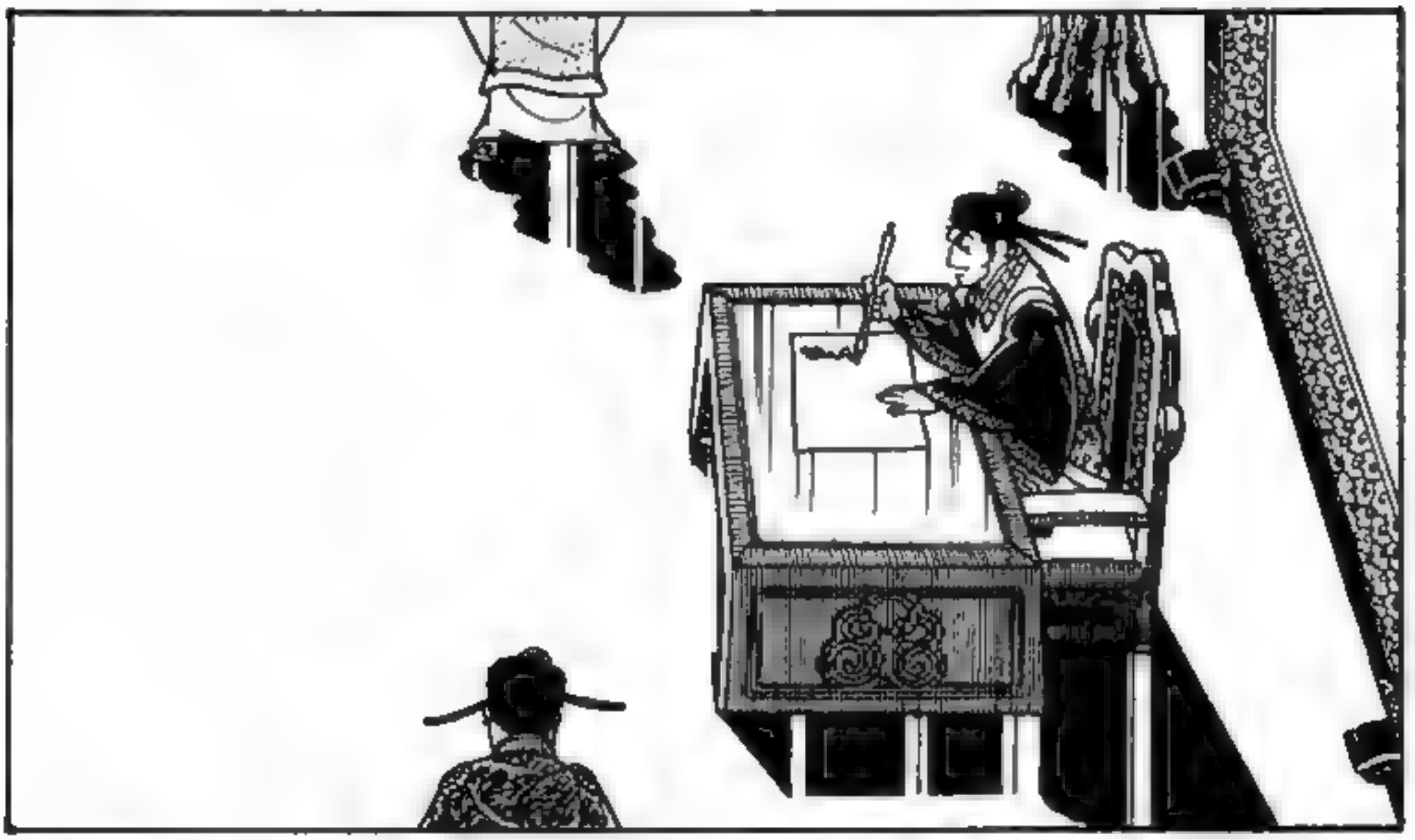
I HAVE BEEN SENT BY EMPEROR YUAN SHU TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO SIR.

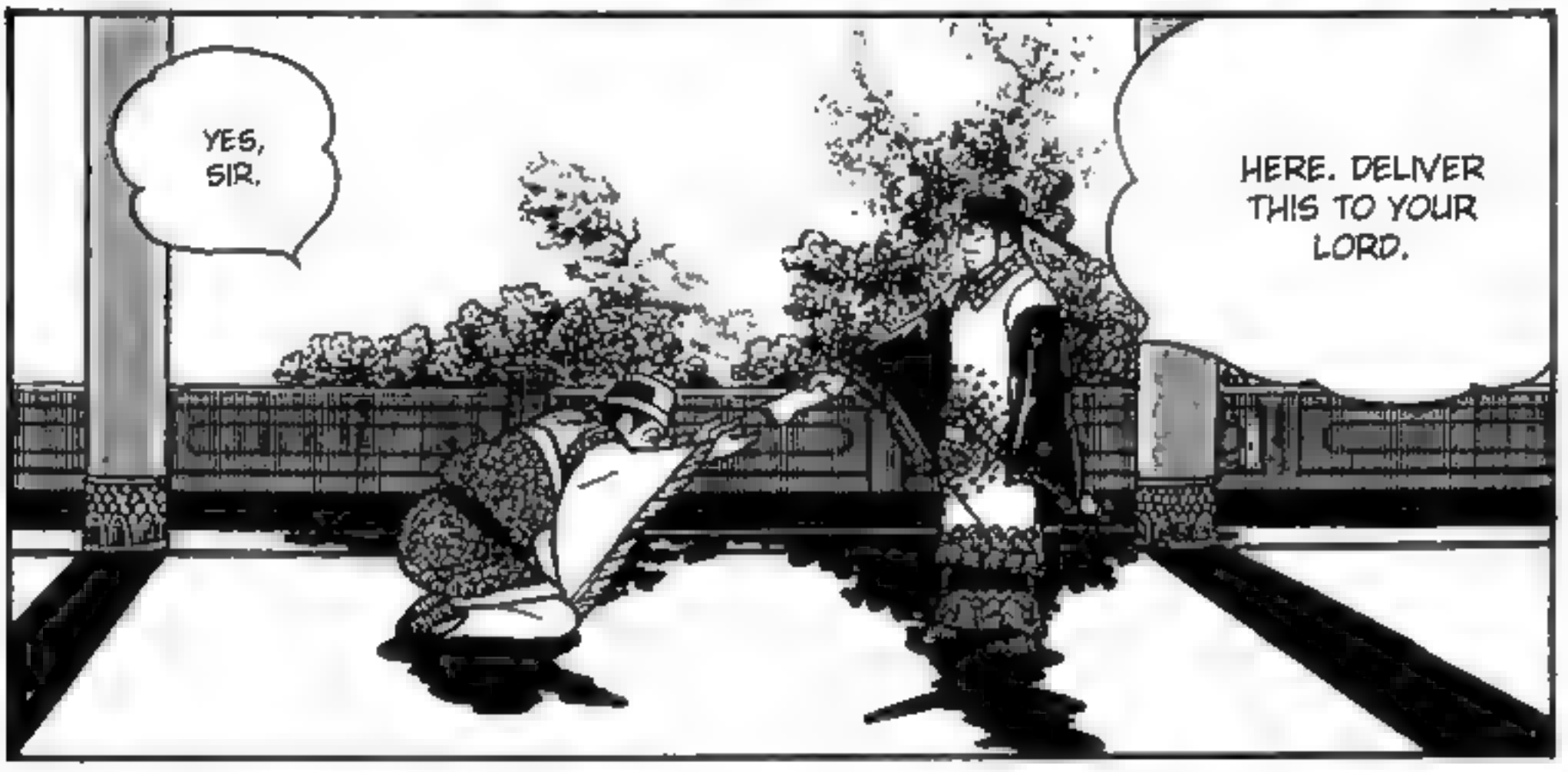
IN ANY CASE, WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE IS AN ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN LU BU. WITH YOUR NEWLY ACQUIRED ARMY AND MANY TALENTED GENERALS, IT SHALL BE EASY TO DEFEAT LU BU OF XUZHOU AS LONG AS WE WORK TOGETHER. OF COURSE, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT YOU MAY KEEP LU BU'S TERRITORY WHICH YOU MAY CONQUER.

I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR RECENT SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONS. OF COURSE, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY GENEROUS ASSISTANCE, BUT NEVERTHELESS, I COULD NOT BE ANY HAPPIER FOR YOUR SUCCESS.


PLEASE WAIT HERE A MOMENT WHILE I WRITE MY REPLY.


HAHA, I SEE.




YES, SIR.
HERE. DELIVER THIS TO YOUR LORD.

WHAT!?

THIS IS SUN CE'S REPLY!?

SEE FOR YOUR-SELVES!

YOUR HIGHNESS, WHAT DID SUN CE SAY...?

NOT ONLY HAVE YOU REFUSED TO RETURN THE IMPERIAL SEAL TO ME, BUT YOU ARE ARROGANTLY CLAIMING YOURSELF TO BE THE EMPEROR. FOR SUCH SHAMELESS ACTIONS, I VOW TO CARRY OUT HEAVEN'S JUDGEMENT BY TAKING YOUR HEAD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THAT UNGRATEFUL LITTLE BRAT...!


NO, NOT YET, MY LORD.
HAS YUAN SHU DEPLOYED HIS ARMY YET?
YES, MY LORD
IN ANY CASE, WE MUSTN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN FOR THE TIME BEING.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE HE WOULD COME TO ATTACK ME AS SOON AS HE READ MY REPLY.

WHAT? AN IMPERIAL MESSENGER?

MY LORD, AN IMPERIAL MESSENGER HAS COME FROM XUCHANG!

YES, SIR.

WELCOME HIM IN.

HMM...

I WONDER WHAT THIS COULD BE ABOUT...?

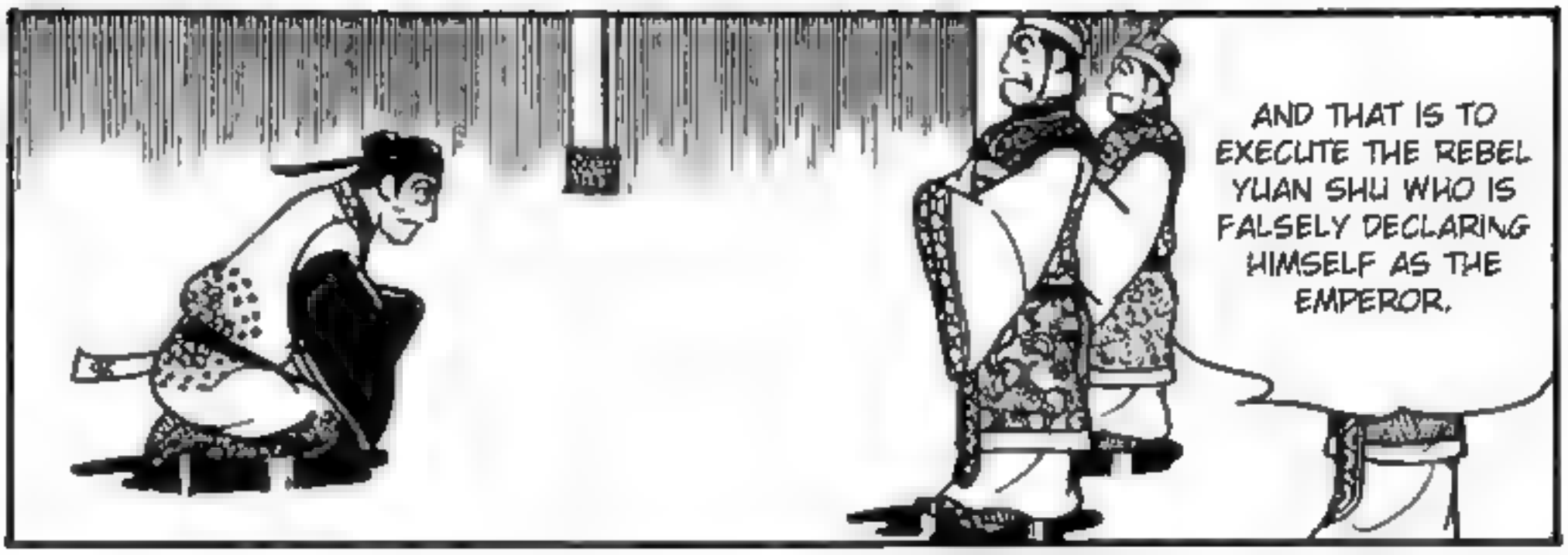
YES, I THANK YOU FOR THE KIND WELCOME.

MY NAME IS SUN CE. I AM MOST HONOURED TO HAVE THE IMPERIAL MESSENGER PERSONALLY VISIT ME.

IS THAT SO!?

THE EMPEROR HAS OFFICIALLY APPOINTED YOU AS THE NEW GOVERNOR OF KUAIJI.

AND THERE'S ONE MORE THING...


AND THAT IS TO EXECUTE THE REBEL YUAN SHU WHO IS FALSELY DECLARING HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR.


YES, I'M SURE HIS HIGHNESS WILL BE PLEASED AT YOUR RESPONSE.
YES OF COURSE. PLEASE REPORT BACK TO HIS HIGHNESS THAT I SHALL GLADLY CARRY OUT HIS WILL.



IT WAS ME WHO HANDED HIM THE IMPERIAL DECREE, WHICH LED TO THIS MESS. I DO PARTLY BEAR SOME RESPONSIBILITY.

OH, SO YOU'VE HEARD ALREADY, ZHANG ZHAO?

I'VE HEARD THAT MY LORD HAS ACCEPTED THE IMPERIAL DECREE TO EXECUTE YUAN SHU.

ABOUT THAT, MY LORD.

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MANY TALENTED GENERALS AND AN ARMY WITH HIGH MORALE, WE CANNOT MATCH YUAN SHU IN THE SHEER NUMBER OF SOLDIERS AND SUPPLIES FOR WAR.

THE YUANS ARE A WEALTHY AND MOST DISTINGUISHED FAMILY THROUGHOUT THE LANDS. ALTHOUGH YUAN SHU RECENTLY SUFFERED A MAJOR DEFEAT TO LU BU, MY LORD MUSTN'T UNDERESTIMATE YUAN SHU'S STRENGTH.

SINCE MY LORD HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED TO CARRY OUT THE IMPERIAL DECREE, IT WOULD BE TOO LATE TO BACK OUT AT THIS POINT.

THEN ARE YOU SAYING THAT I SHOULDN'T ATTACK?

TO DO SO, A MESSENGER MUST FIRST BE SENT TO CAO CAO, SAYING THAT WE WOULD LIKE HIM TO LEAD THE ATTACK WHILE WE WILL SUPPORT HIS TROOPS FROM BEHIND.

I SUGGEST THAT WE AVOID FIGHTING YUAN SHU FROM THE FRONT LINES AT ALL COSTS.

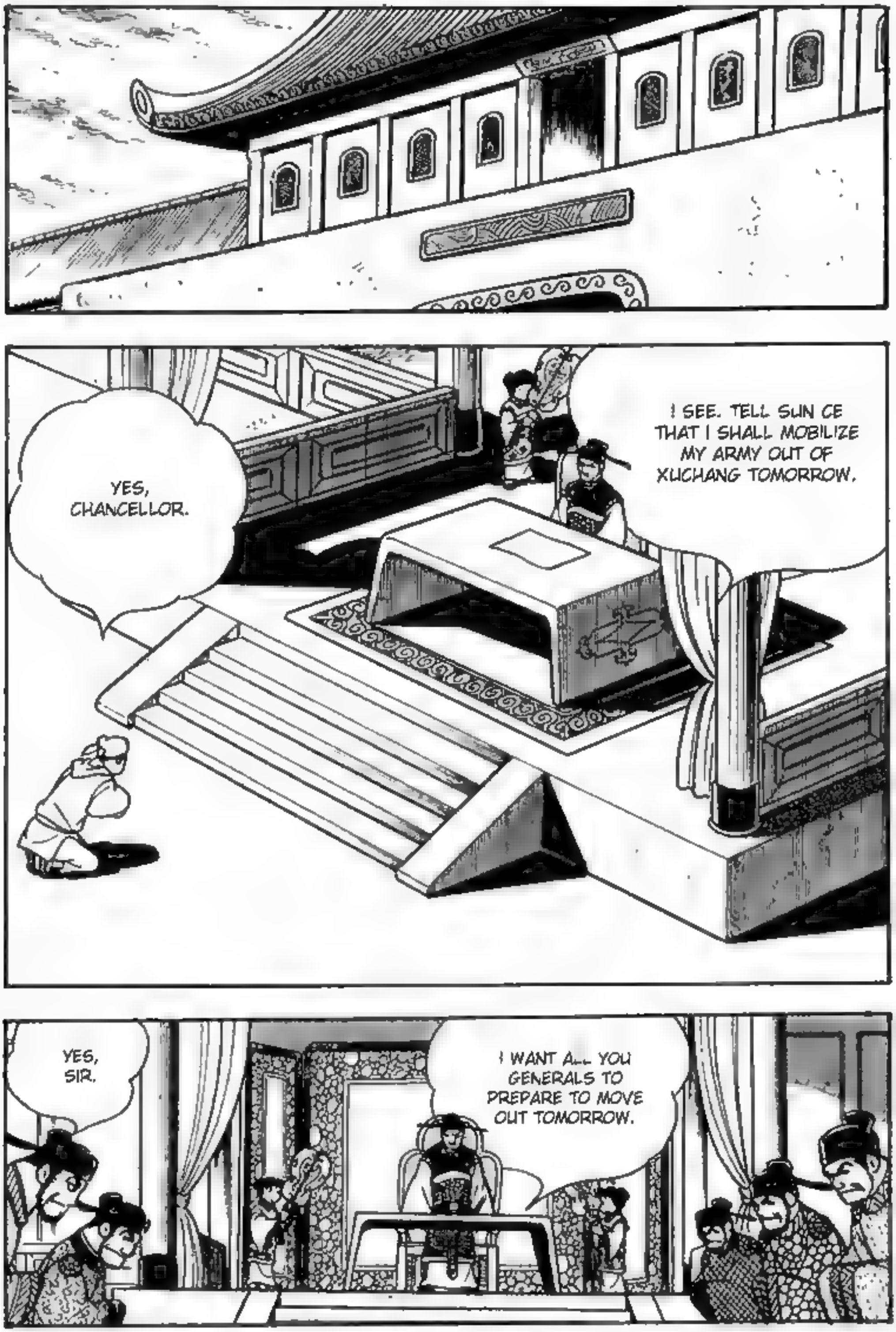
THEN WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

BY TELLING CAO CAO THAT WE WILL SEND REINFORCEMENTS TO BACK HIS ARMY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO AVOID DIRECTLY FIGHTING AGAINST YUAN SHU ALONE. MOREOVER, CAO CAO WILL ALSO SEND REINFORCEMENTS IN RETURN IF WE ARE TO MEET ANY TROUBLE.


GOOD, I SHALL SEND A MESSENGER TO CAO CAO RIGHT AWAY.


I SEE... HAVE CAO CAO DO ALL THE DIRTY WORK...

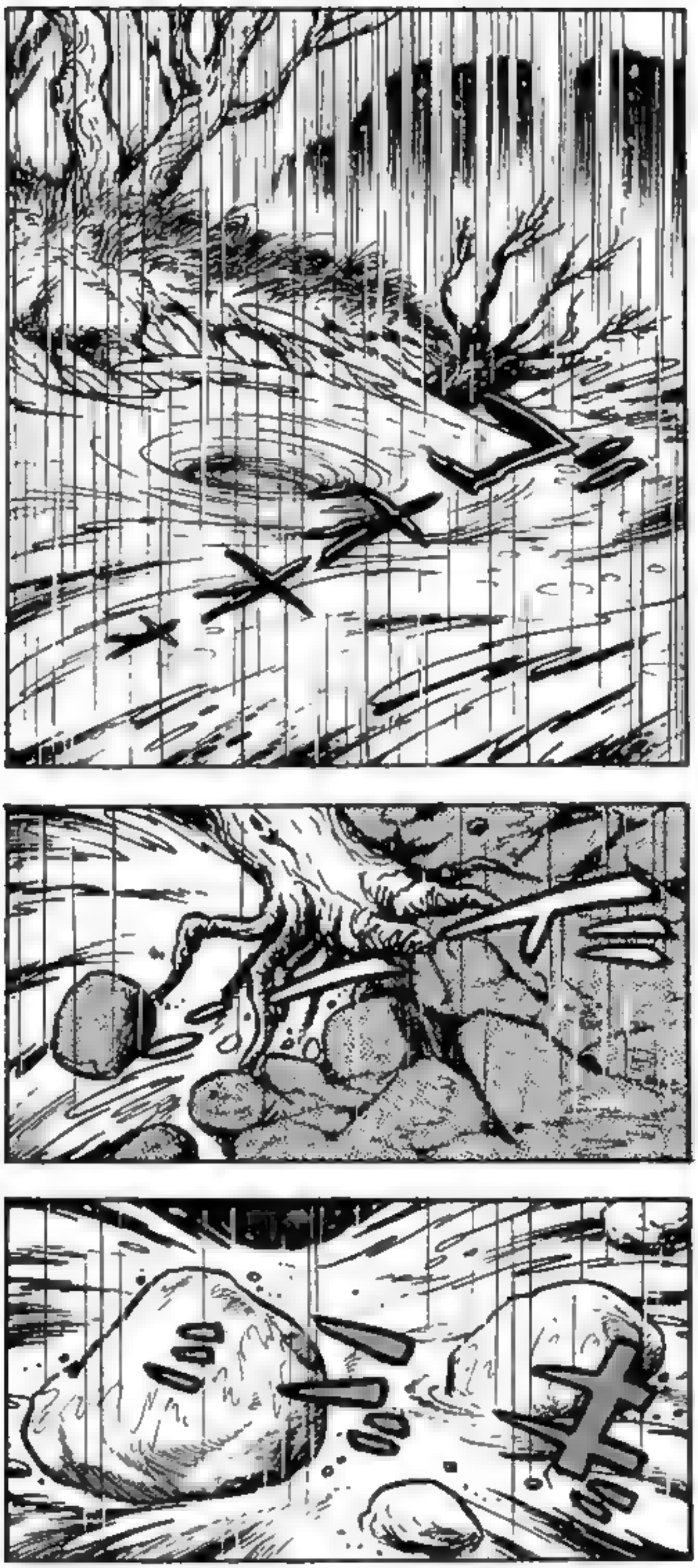

AND SO SUN CE'S MESSENGER RACED TOWARDS XUCHANG


YES, CHANCELLOR.
I SEE. TELL SUN CE THAT I SHALL MOBILIZE MY ARMY OUT OF XUCHANG TOMORROW.
YES, SIR.
I WANT ALL YOU GENERALS TO PREPARE TO MOVE OUT TOMORROW.

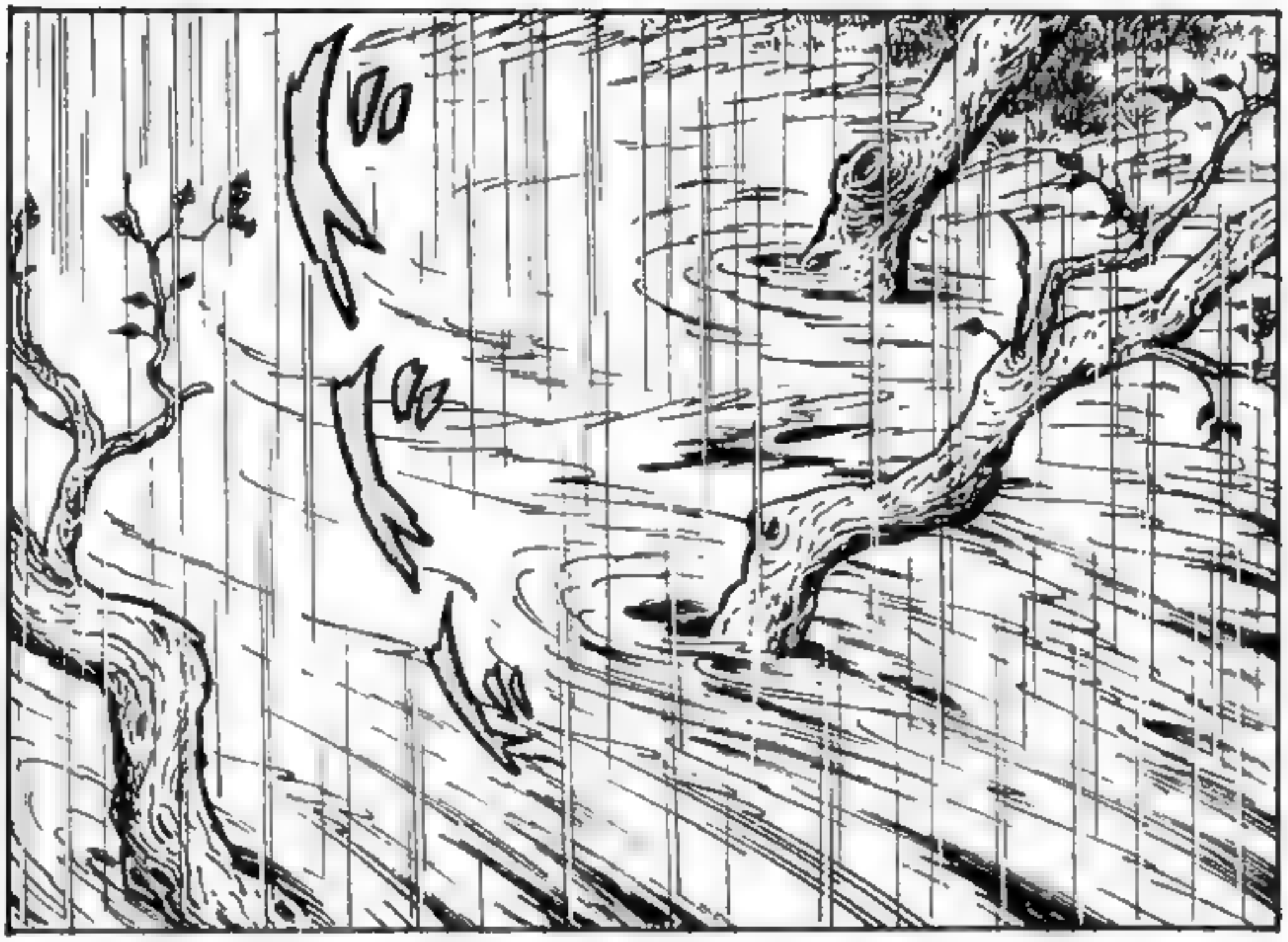
YES, MY LORD.

ALSO, I WANT A MESSENGE SENT TO YUZHOU'S LIU BEI AND XUZHOU'S LU BU, ORDERING THEM TO JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST YUAN SHU.

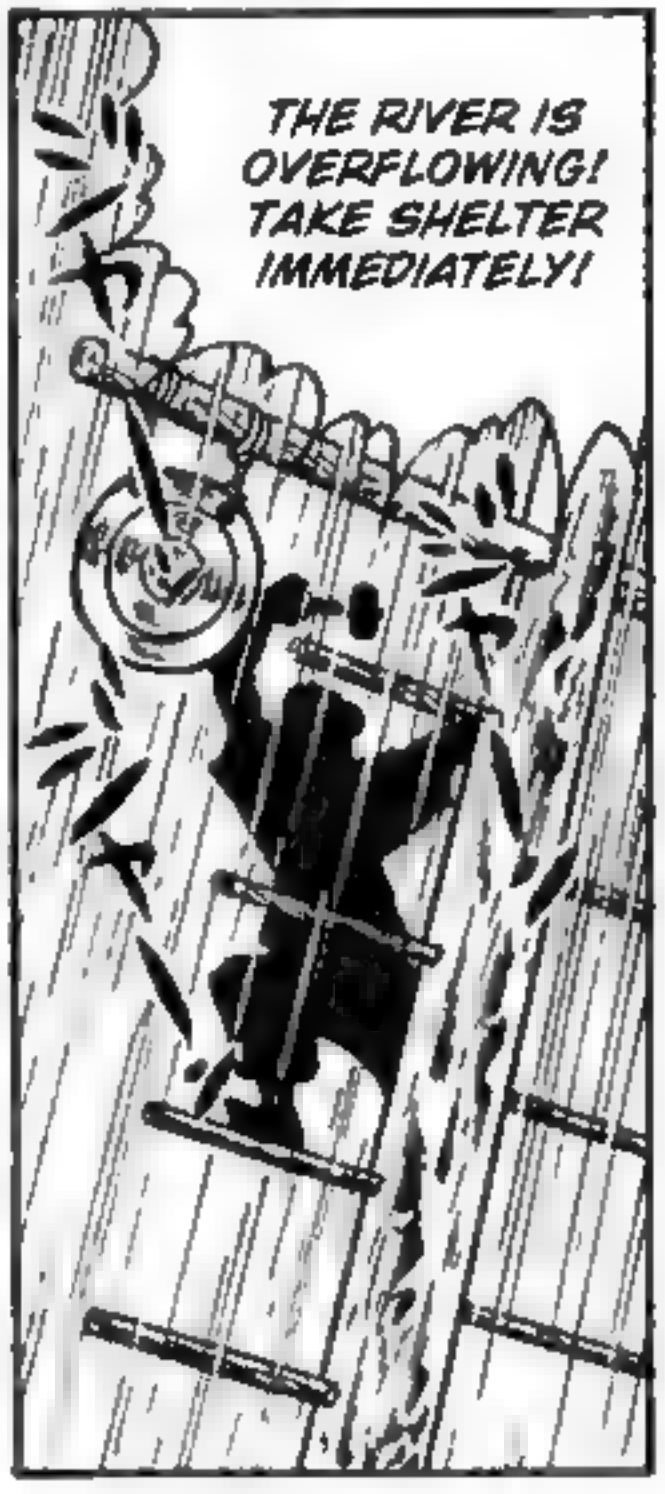
THE NEXT DAY, CAO CAO LED AN ARMY OF 170,000 OUT OF XUCHANG AND HEADED TOWARDS HUAINAN

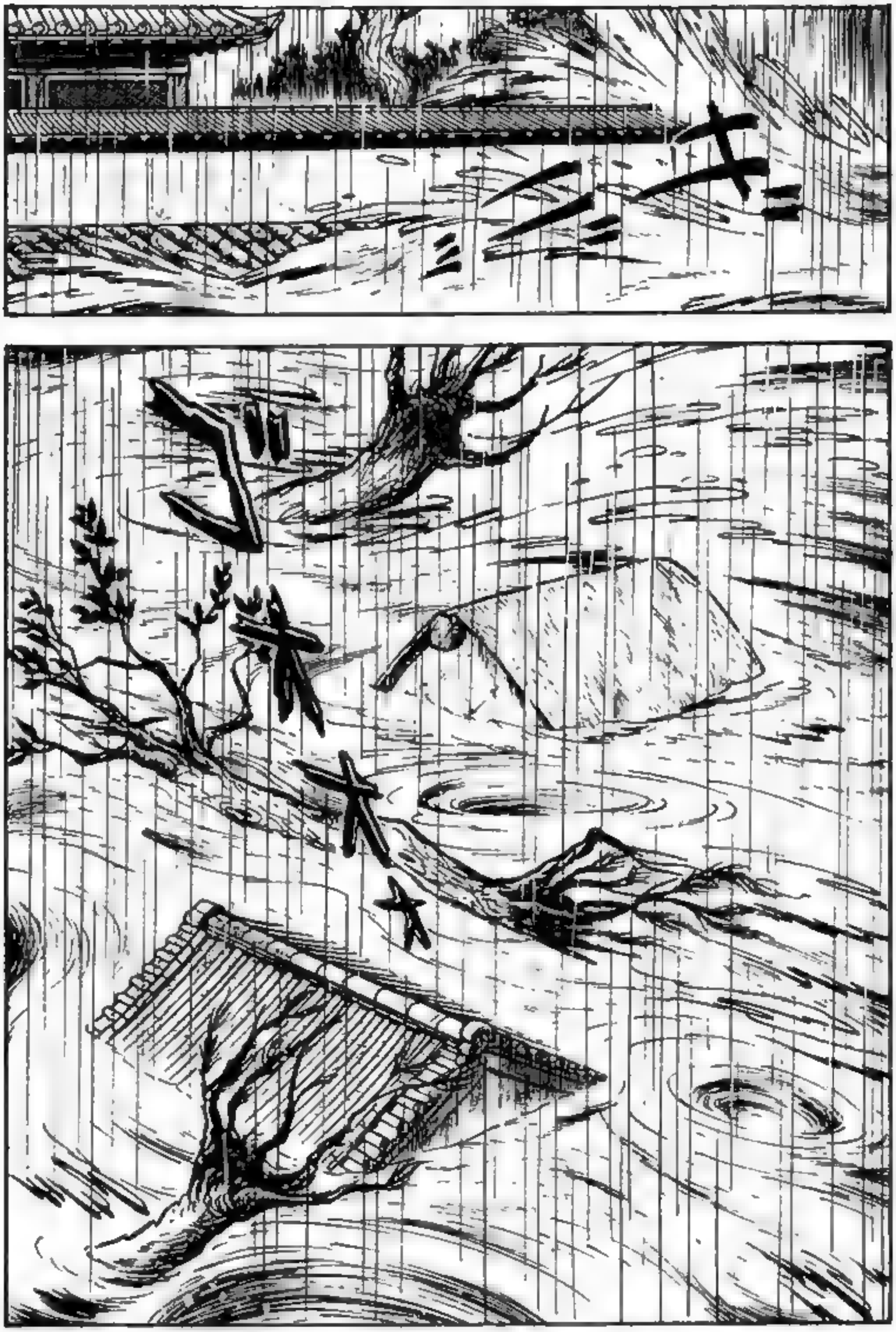


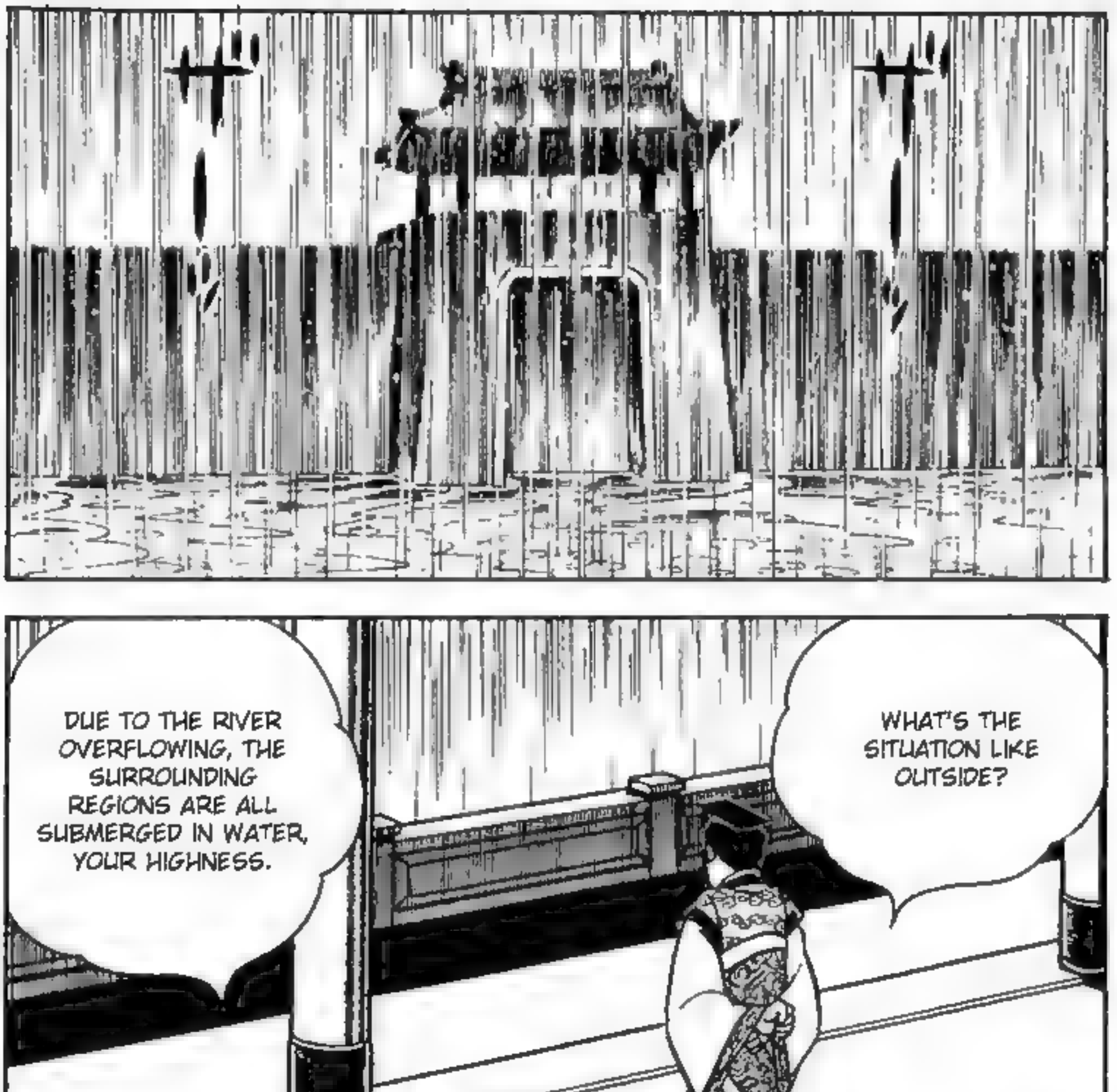

AT THIS TIME, HUAINAN WAS BESIEGED BY A TERRIBLE STORM.






THE RIVER IS OVERFLOWING! TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!




DUE TO THE RIVER OVERFLOWING, THE SURROUNDING REGIONS ARE ALL SUBMERGED IN WATER, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WHAT'S THE SITUATION LIKE OUTSIDE?

SIGH... IT'S JUST ONE BAD LUCK AFTER ANOTHER...

AT THIS RATE, WE SHALL NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO LAST THE COMING WINTER.

THE FARMLANDS AND CROPS ARE MOST LIKELY IN RUINS.

ANOTHER BAD NEWS!?

*YOUR HIGH-NESS! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!*

WHAT!?

CAO CAO, LIU BEI, AND LU BU HAVE JOINED FORCES AND ARE COMING TO ATTACK!

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

PREPARE MY ARMY TO DEFEND AGAINST THE INVADERS!

CAO CAO FROM THE NORTH, LIU BEI FROM THE WEST, AND LU BU FROM THE EAST. THEIR TOTAL FORCES ARE SAID TO NUMBER 300,000.

ANOTHER BAD NEWS...!?

YOUR HIGH-NESS! YOUR HIGHNESS!

SUN CE'S FLEET IS CROSSING THE RIVER TO ATTACK OUR LANDS!

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME!?

MNN...

YOUR HIGHNESS, WE CANNOT HOPE TO WITHSTAND THEIR COMBINED ATTACK.

WHAT!? EVEN SUN CE IS COMING TO ATTACK!?

WE CAN ONLY HOPE TO PLAY A WAR OF ATTRITION.

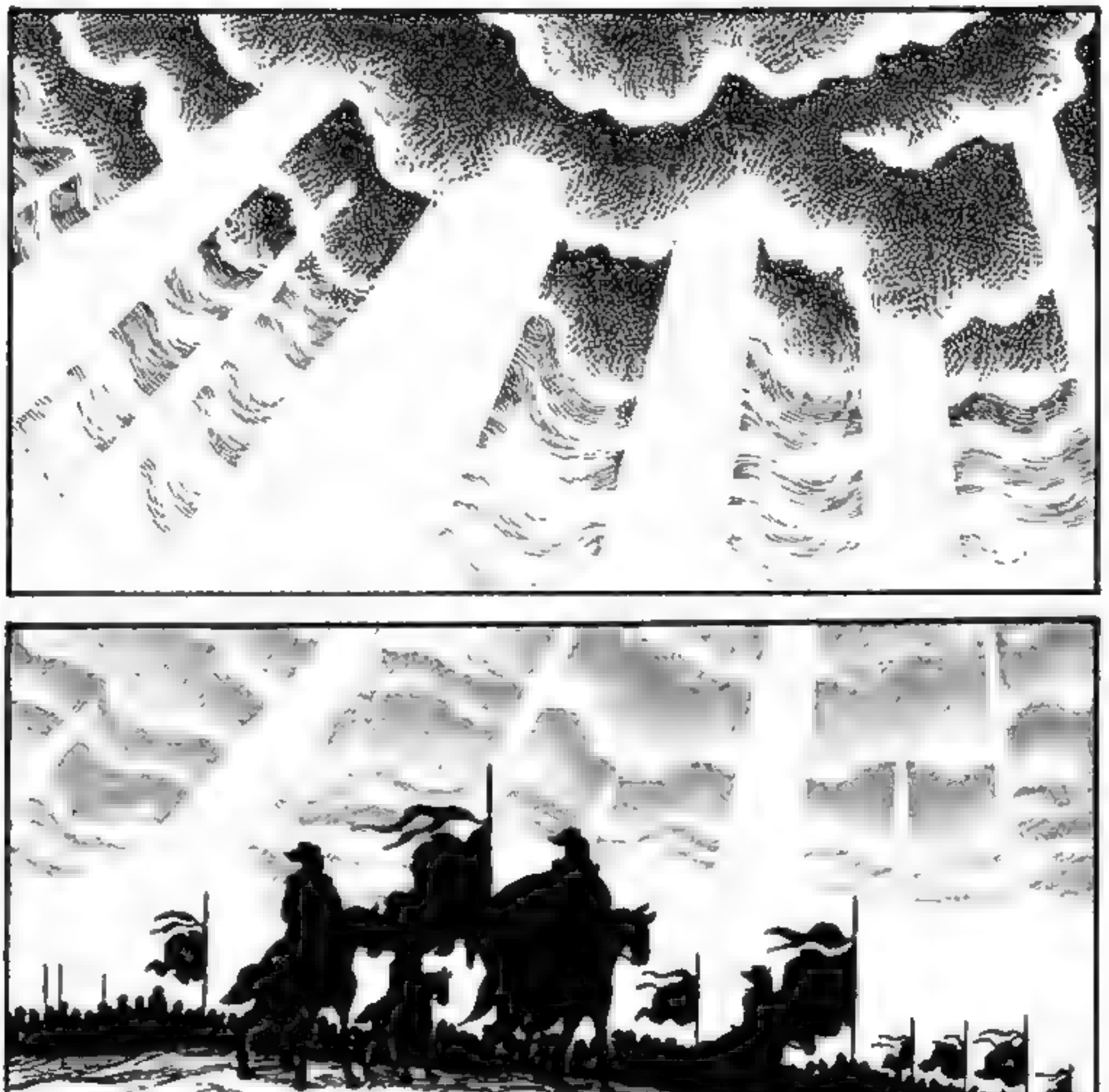
AND EVEN IF OUR ARMY COULD MATCH ALL OF THEM, WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOOD SUPPLIES DUE TO THE RECENT FLOOD.

YES... THAT SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY OPTION.

I BELIEVE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE IS TO TEMPORARILY ESCAPE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF HUAI RIVER.

THE REMAINING GENERALS AND 240,000 SOLDIERS SHALL EVACUATE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HUAI RIVER, ALONG WITH THE NECCESSARY ARMY SUPPLIES AND ALL THE CASTLE'S TREASURES.

I WANT GENERALS LI DENG, YUE JIU, CHEN JI, LIANG GANG TO REMAIN HERE AND PROTECT THIS SHOUCHUN CASTLE WITH AN ARMY OF 100,000.




YES, THIS WILL BE VERY DIFFI-CULT FOR OUR ARMY TO CROSS.
MY LORD, THE TERRAIN IS IN FAR WORSE CONDITION THAN WE HAD PREDICTED.

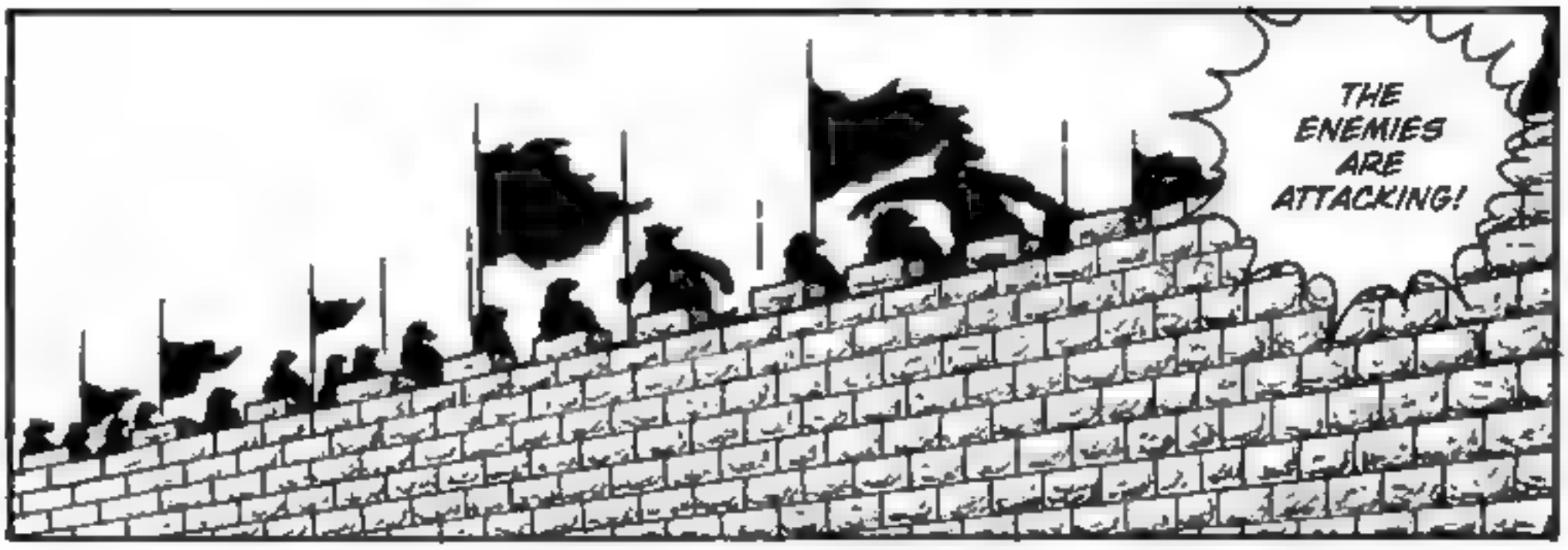



BUT WE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP AFTER COMING THIS FAR. GIVE THE SIGNAL TO ATTACK.

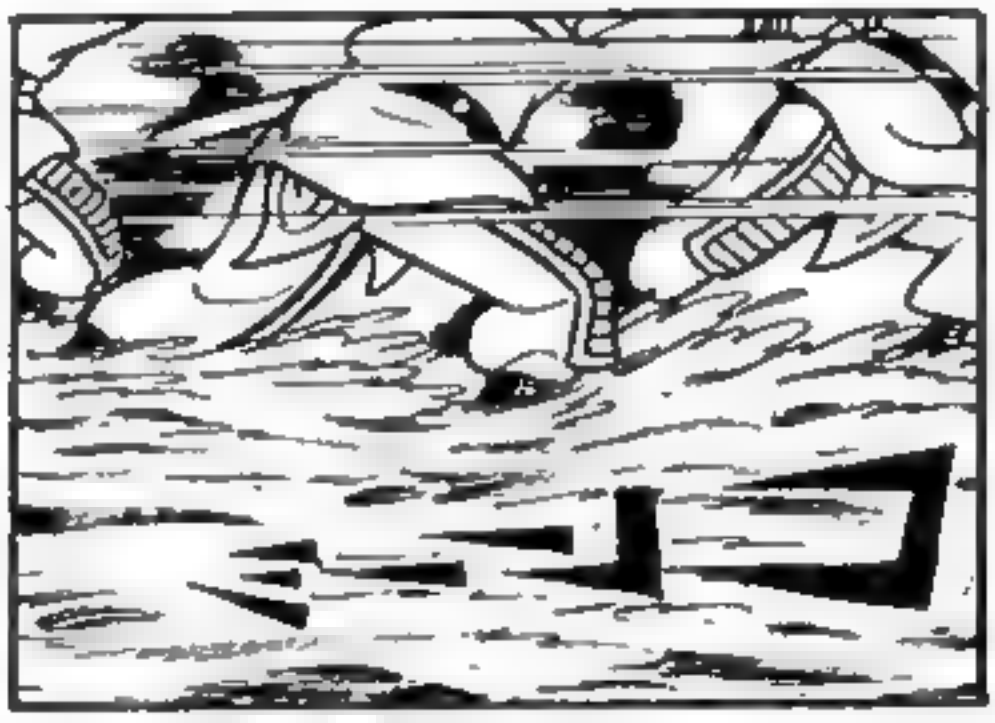

ATTACK!


CHARGE!

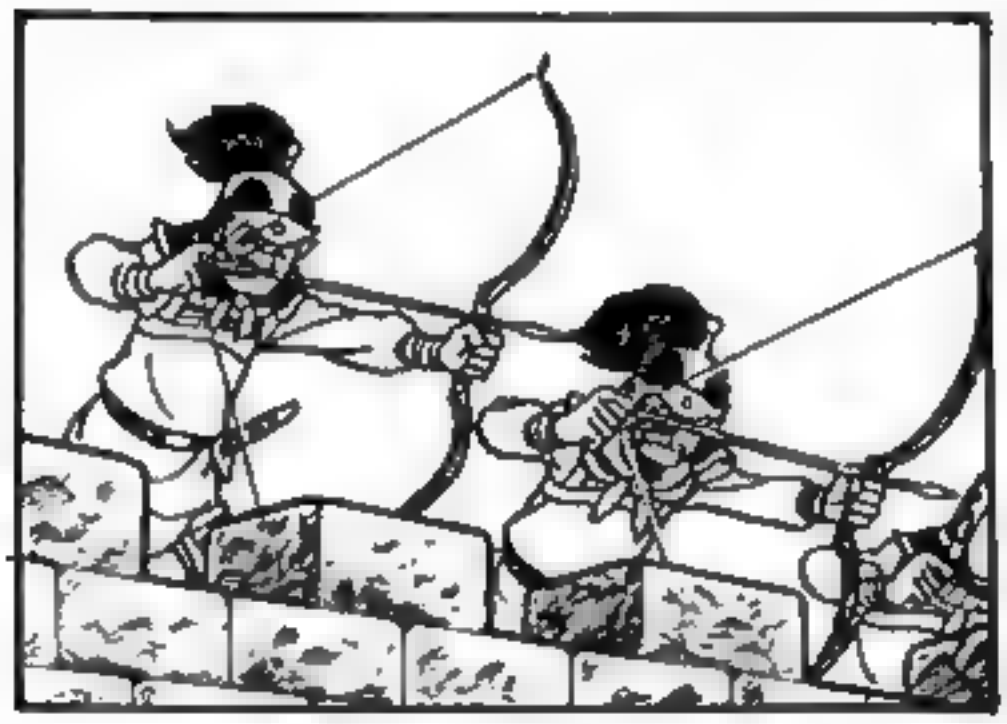

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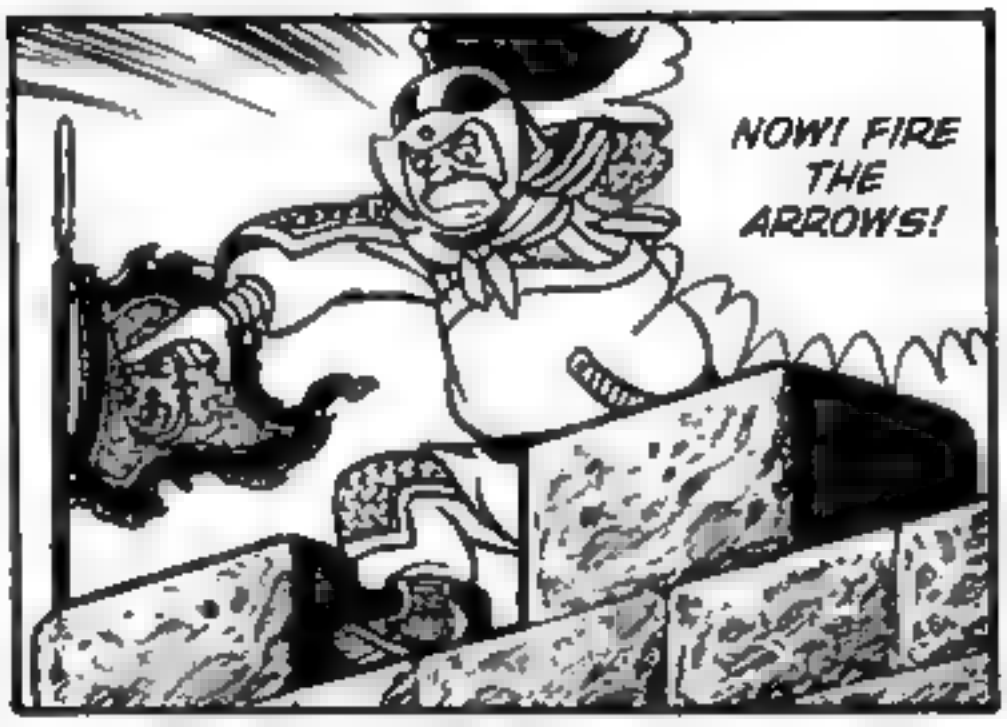

THE ENEMIES ARE ATTACKING!

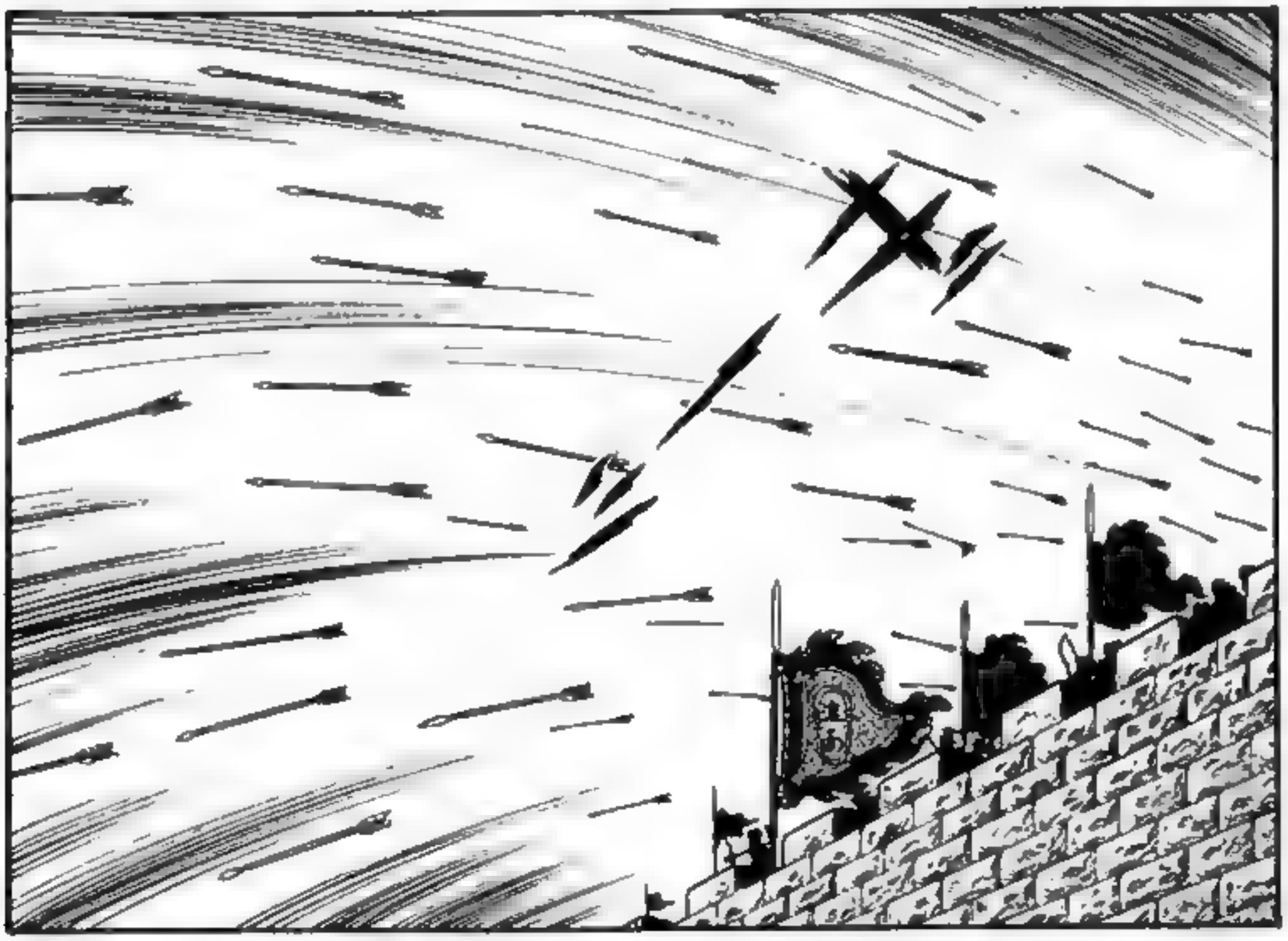

AGH!



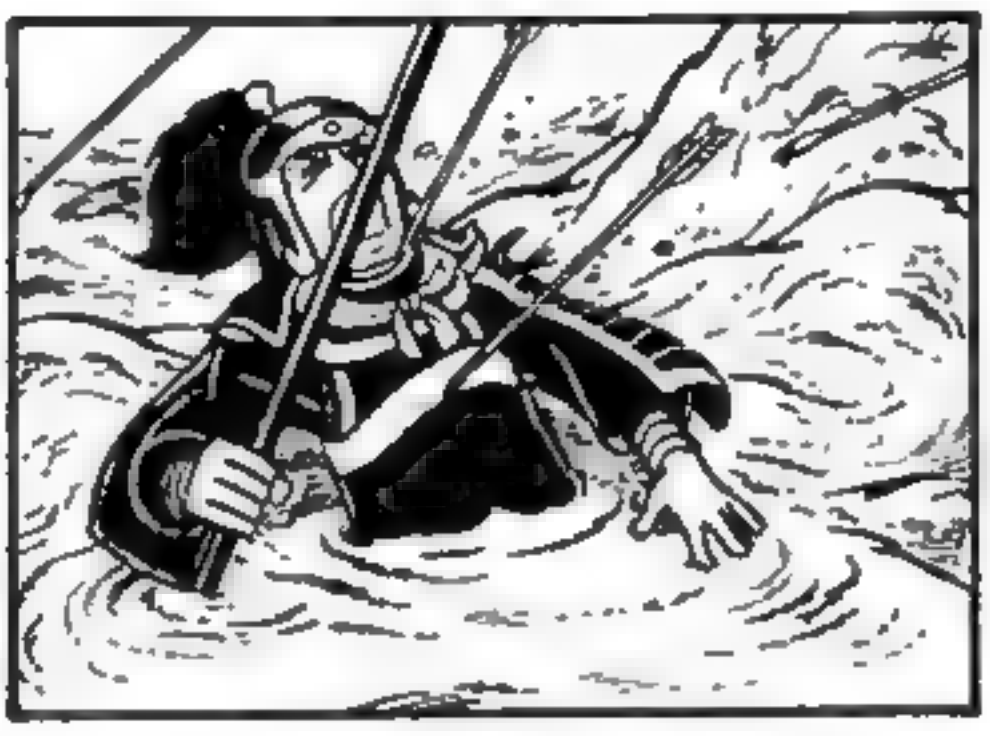

MY FOOT'S STUCK IN THE MUD!
I-IT'S NO GOOD, I CAN BARELY MOVE...!




NOW! FIRE THE ARROWS!







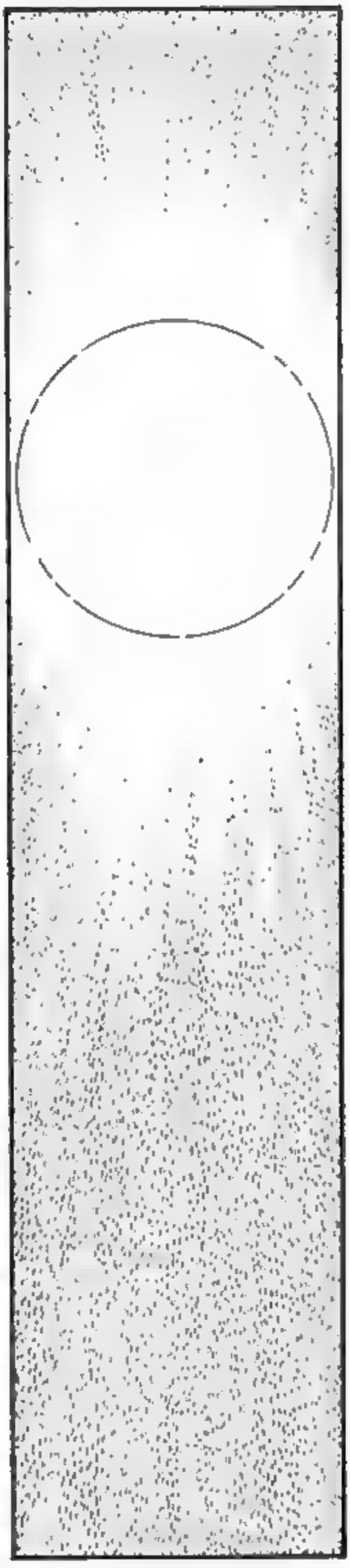
R-RETREAT! RETREAT!

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WAIT UNTIL THE MUD DRIES UP AND HARDENS...

YES...

MY LORD, WE CANNOT ATTACK WITH THE TERRAIN LIKE THIS.





BECAUSE OF ALL THE BOULDERS AND TREES THAT HAVE BECOME LODGED IN THE MUD, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR OUR SOLDIERS TO APPROACH THE CASTLE.

MOREOVER, OUR ENEMIES ARE DETERMINED TO FIGHT TO THE VERY LAST MAN.

NOT VERY GOOD, SIR.

HOW'S OUR ARMY'S SITUATION?

DAMN THAT UNEXPECTED FLOOD...!

I REGRET TO INFORM SIR THAT OUR FOOD SUPPLIES ARE RUNNING LOW.

WHAT IS IT, WANG HOU?

MY LORD.

WITH OUR CURRENT SUPPLIES, WE SHALL NOT LAST EVEN 5 MORE DAYS.

YES BUT THEIR ARMIES ARE MUCH TOO FAR AWAY AND SO IT HAS NOT BEEN DELIVERED YET.

HAVE YOU ASKED SUN CE TO SUPPLY US WITH ADDITIONAL FOOD?

ISN'T IT YOUR JOB AS THE COMMANDER OF PROVISIONS TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING...!?

YES, MY LORD... BUT DUE TO THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE CROPS AND FARMLANDS IN THIS REGION BY THE FLOOD, I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY FOOD. MOREOVER, OUR ARMY CONSUMES A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF FOOD EACH DAY...

FINE, I UNDERSTAND. JUST DECREASE THE RATIONS FOR EACH SOLDIER UNTIL THE FOOD FROM SUN CE ARRIVES.

NGHH...

LINE UP FOR YOUR DAILY RATIONS.

SORRY BUT THAT'S AS MUCH AS I'M ORDERED TO GIVE TO EACH MAN.

WHAT!? THIS IS IT!?

THAT'S RIGHT! HOW THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIGHT IF WE ONLY EAT THIS MUCH!?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME!? THIS MUCH AIN'T EVEN ENOUGH TO FEED A HUNGRY CHILD!

DO THEY SERIOUSLY EXPECT US TO FIGHT STARVING!?

CALM DOWN, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT. ORDERS ARE ORDERS!

WEREN'T WE PROMISED WITH AT LEAST ENOUGH FOOD TO KEEP US FROM STARVING WHEN WE JOINED THE ARMY!?

SIR, THE SOLDIERS' COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE FOOD SHORTAGE ARE GROWING LOUDER AND LOUDER.

BUT JUST HOW CAN I GET THE SOLDIERS TO STOP COMPLAINING AND FIGHT...?

JUST AS I FEARED...

AT THIS RATE, CAPTURING THE ENEMY CASTLE WILL BE THE LEAST OF OUR CONCERNS...

# A BITTER VICTORY








SIR, THE MORALE OF OUR SOLDIERS ARE LOW AND THEY GROW MORE UNRULY WITH EACH DAY.

SHOW THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF WEAKNESS AND ONE CANNOT SURVIVE IN THESE CHAOTIC TIMES.

MNN...

WARLORDS OF THESE LANDS WILL REGARD ME AS AN INCOMPETENT WEAKLING AND I SHALL FIND MYSELF WITHOUT ANY ALLIES.

IF I AM DEFEATED HERE IN ADDITION TO THE LOSS I SUFFERED FROM ZHANG XIU NOT TOO LONG AGO, I SHALL BE THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF THIS WORLD...

BUT SIR, WITH OUR CURRENT SITUATION, I'M AFRAID THAT...

WHICH IS WHY WE MUST WIN THIS BATTLE NO MATTER WHAT...!

.....

YES, I KNOW...

WHAT WOULD THAT BE, SIR?

BUT THERE IS STILL ONE EXTREME MEASURE I CAN RESORT TO...

WHAT!?

WE EXECUTE WANG HOU, THE COMMANDER OF PROVISIONS AND MAKE HIM A SCAPEGOAT...

WE EXECUTE HIM AND TELL THE SOLDIERS THAT WANG HOU'S CORRUPT AND GREEDY PRACTICES WERE WHY THEY WERE GETTING LESS FOOD THAN USUAL.

B-BUT SIR...! IF WE DO THAT, WE'LL RUN OUT OF FOOD WITHIN A FEW DAYS!

AND THEN WE RETURN THE RATIONS BACK TO THE ORIGINAL PORTIONS FOR EACH MAN.

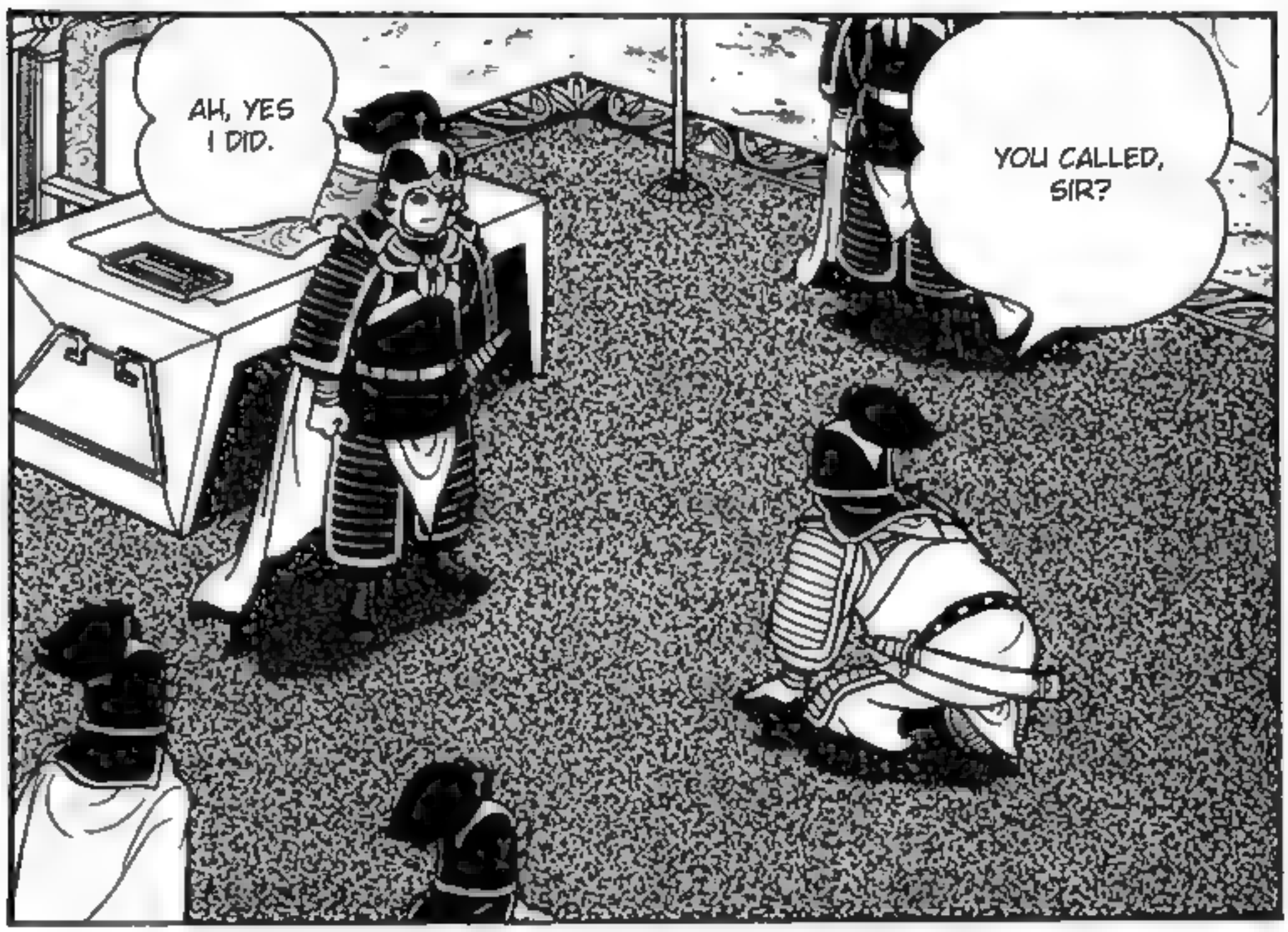
YES, WHICH IS WHY WE MUST CAPTURE THE CASTLE WITHIN THOSE FEW DAYS.

THE LAND BEYOND SHOUCHUN HAS NOT BEEN AFFLICTED BY THE FLOOD. OUR FOOD PROBLEMS WILL BE A THING OF THE PAST IF WE CAN JUST TAKE THIS CASTLE...

HMM, EVEN WITH THE DECREASED RATION SIZES, WE'LL RUN OUT OF FOOD IN A LITTLE OVER 10 DAYS...

COMMANDER WANG HOU, THE CHANCELLOR IS CALLING FOR SIR.


I'M NOT SURE, SIR.
I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS...?


AH, YES I DID.
YOU CALLED, SIR?

WHAT!?

I NEED YOU TO GIVE ME YOUR HEAD.

IN RETURN, YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT I SHALL ENSURE THE WELL-BEING OF YOUR FAMILY.

YOUR HEAD ALONE CAN APPEASE OUR ENTIRE ARMY AND BRING US VICTORY.

W-WHY WOULD SIR WANT MY HEAD...!?

P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME MY LORD BUT I JUST CANNOT SIMPLY OFFER MY LIFE...!

I BEG OF YOU SIR, PLEASE SPARE MY LIFE...!

WANG HOU, IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME YOUR HEAD NOW, WE SHALL SOON HAVE A REBELLION ON OUR HANDS AND YOU WILL MOST LIKELY BE THE FIRST ONE KILLED! YOU WILL DIE EITHER WAY, SO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE!

AGHH!

KILL HIM!

YES...

PUT HIS HEAD UP WITH A NOTICE TO LET THE SOLDIERS KNOW.

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?

HEY, ISN'T THAT THE HEAD OF THE COMMANDER OF PROVISIONS!?

"WANG HOU HAS BEEN EXECUTED FOR HIS CORRUPT PRACTICES OF CUTTING DOWN THE RATIONS OF OUR FELLOW COMRADES JUST SO THAT HE COULD FILL HIS OWN STOMACH."

THERE'S A NOTICE. .

THAT BASTARD...! HOW DARE HE STARVE US WHEN WE RISK OUR LIVES ON THE BATTLE-FIELDS EVERY DAY!

THAT EXPLAINS IT!

SO IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIM THAT WE'VE BEEN STARVING THESE DAYS!?

TAKE THIS, YOU GREEDY PIG...!

I HOPE YOU ROT IN HELL!

HOW ARE THE SOLDIERS?

THAT TAKES CARE OF ONE PROBLEM...

THEY SEEM CONTENT AFTER HAVING VENTED ALL THEIR RAGE TOWARDS WANG HOU.

*I KNOW THAT!* THAT'S WHY WE'LL TAKE SHOUCHUN WITHIN 3 DAYS NO MATTER WHAT!

BUT SIR, THE MEN WILL BE SURE TO REBEL WHEN OUR FOOD RUNS OUT IN A FEW DAYS.

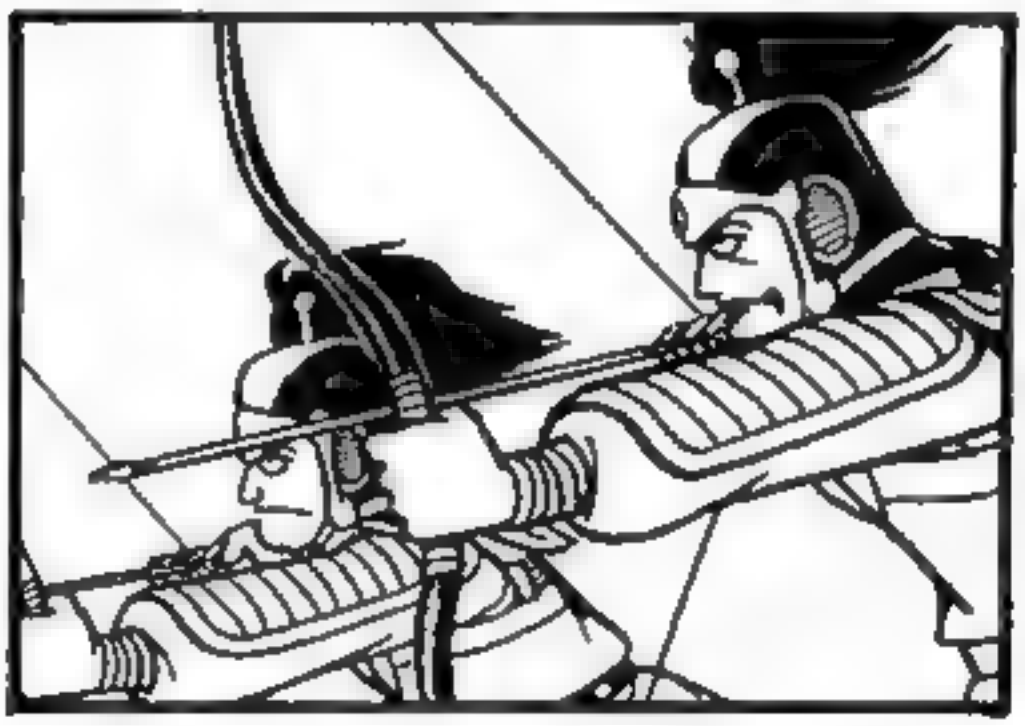

ALL COWARDS SHALL BE EXECUTED ON THE SPOT!
LISTEN UP, MEN! WE SHALL TAKE THE CASTLE OF SHOUCHUN WITHIN THE NEXT 3 DAYS!

ALL UNITS, CHARGE!

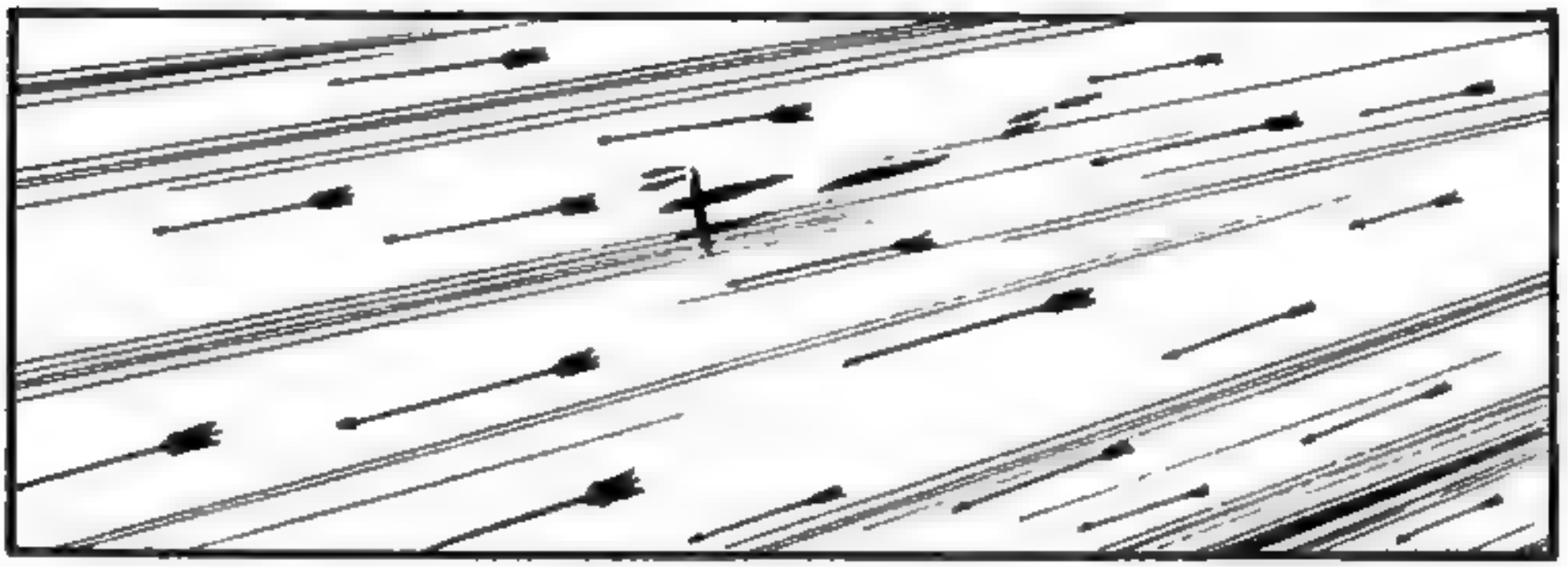
WE SHALL BEGIN OUR SIEGE NOW!


HMPH, LET THEM TRY, I SAY!


GENERAL, CAO CAO'S FORCES ARE ATTACKING!

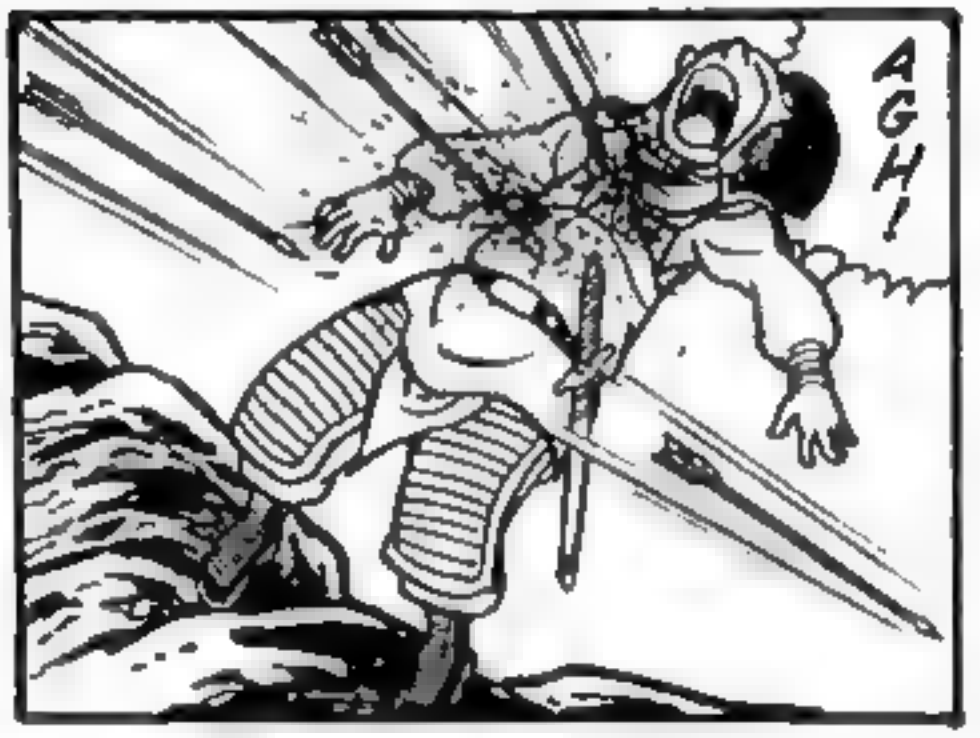



ARCHERS!



AGHH!


UGH!

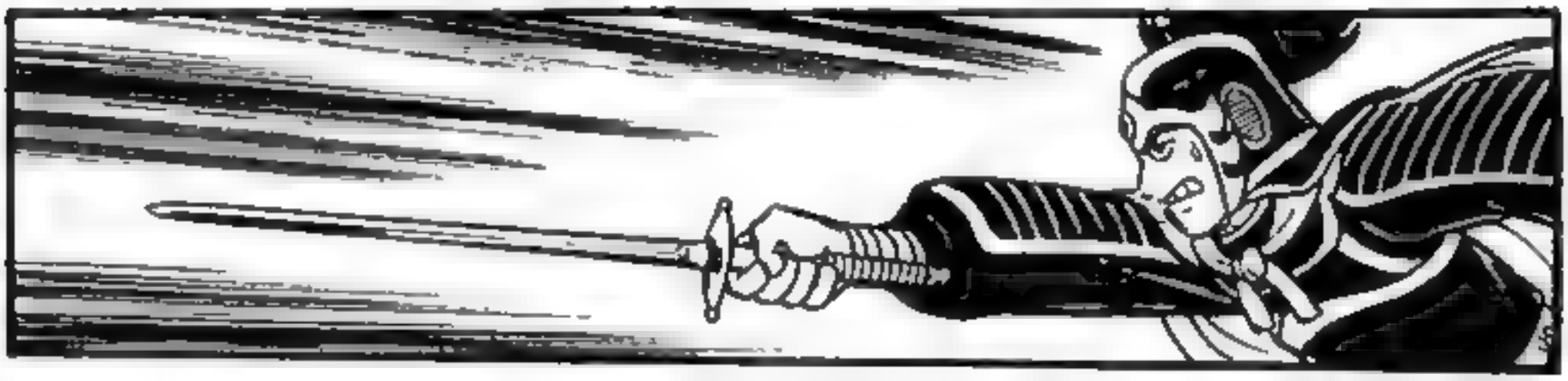

AGH!


WE'RE JUST WALKING TARGETS FOR THEIR ARCHERS!


WHAT ARE YOU ALL STANDING AROUND FOR!? I SAID CHARGE!


YOU DAMN COWARD!


BUT MY LORD! THIS IS FUTILE, WE'RE LITERALLY WALKING TO OUR DEATHS!

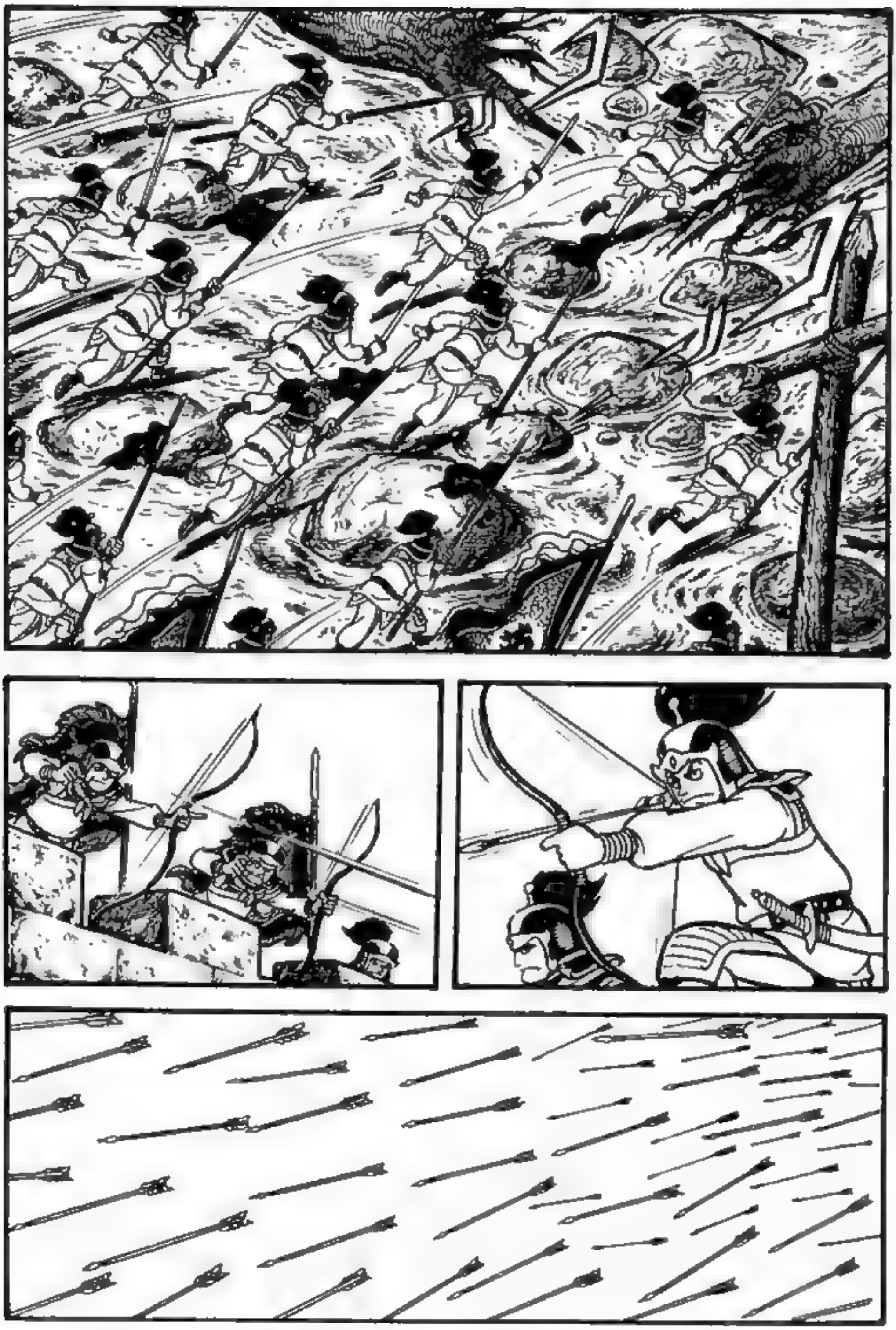


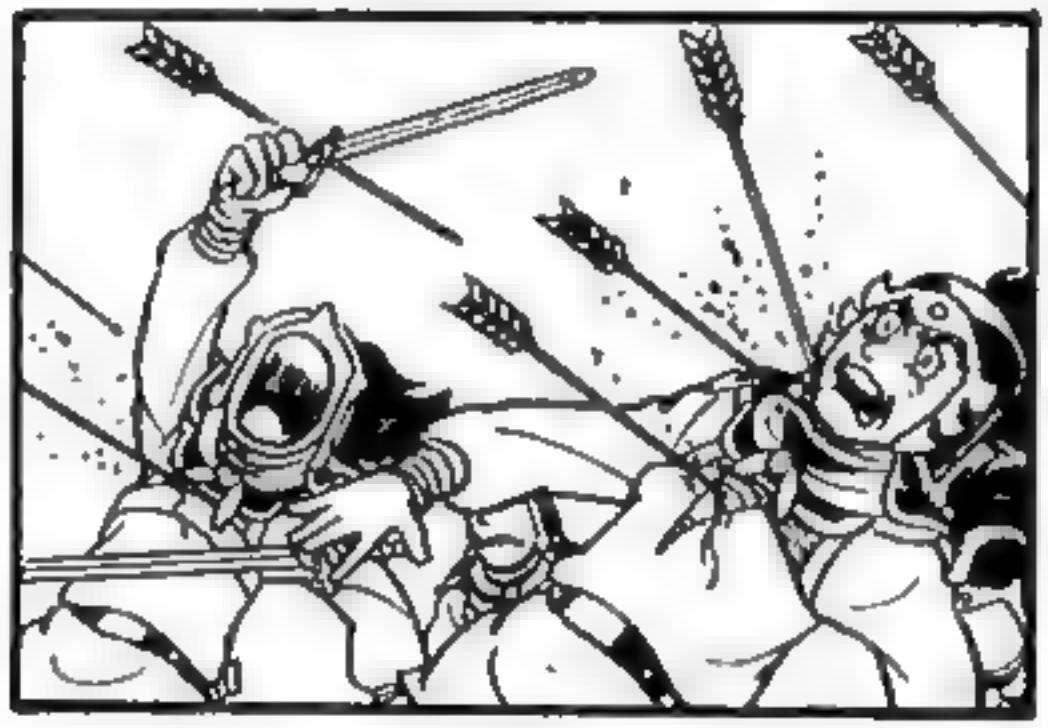




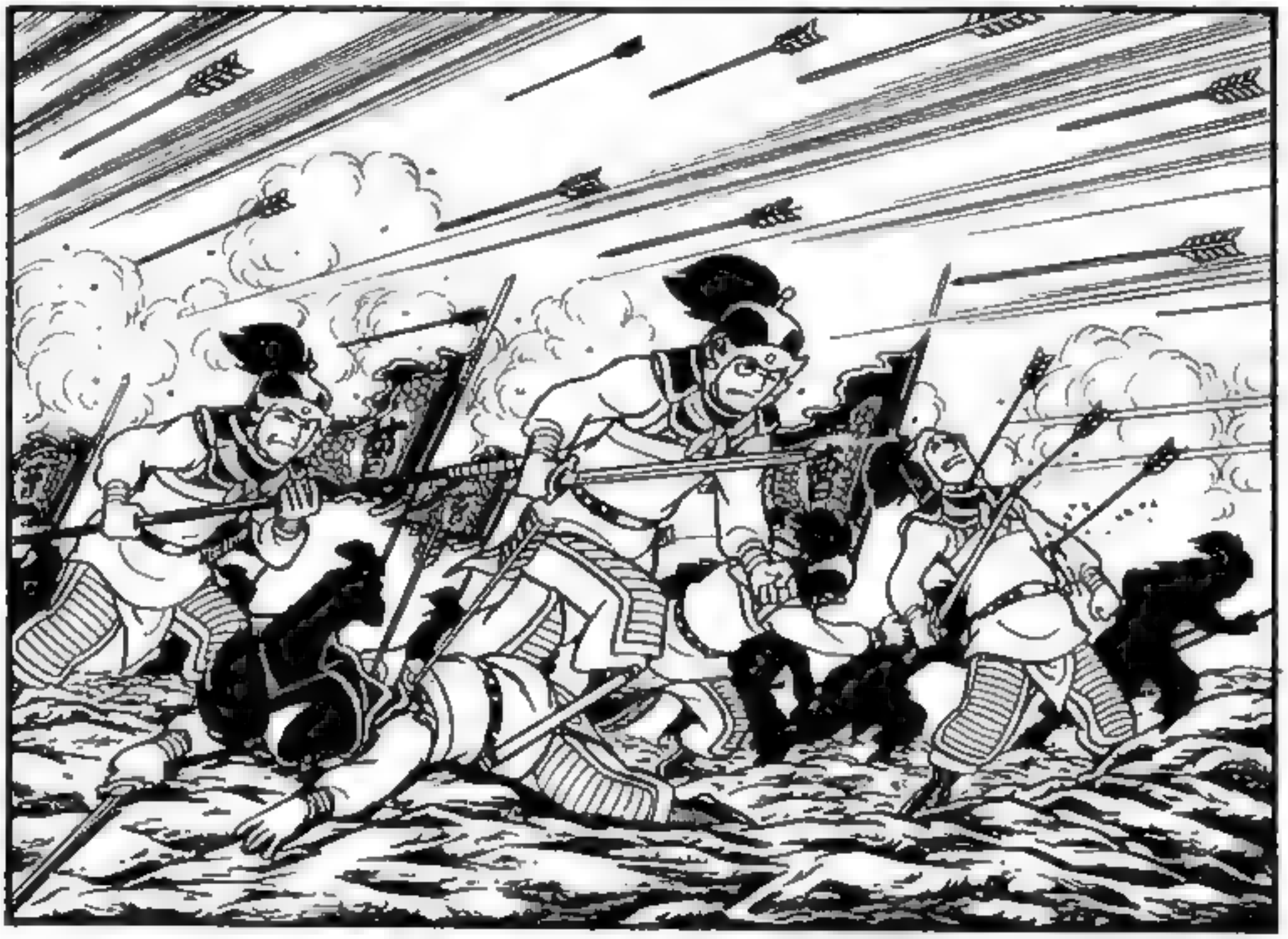

NOW CHARGE!


I ALREADY SAID THAT COWARDS WILL BE EXECUTED ON THE SPOT, DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF.

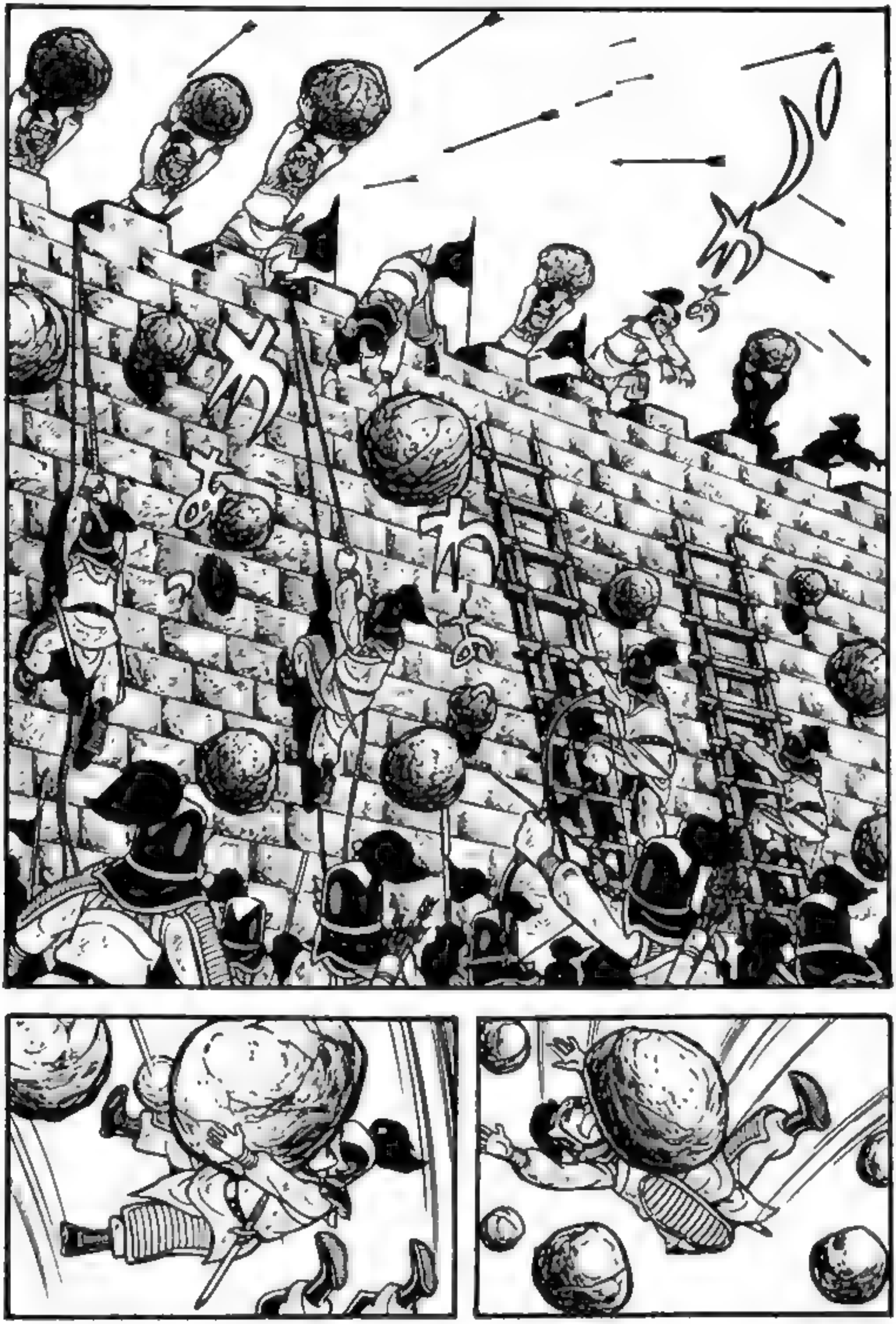









NGHHH! WE MUST DEFEND THE CASTLE WALLS AT ALL COSTS!
GENERAL, THE ENEMIES SEEM UNUSUALLY DETERMINED TODAY. THEY KEEP COMING AND COMING!



DO NOT FALTER! STEP ON THE CORPSES OF OUR COMRADES AND CLIMB OVER THE WALLS!

WATCH CLOSELY!

I'LL SHOW YOU ALL HOW IT'S DONE!

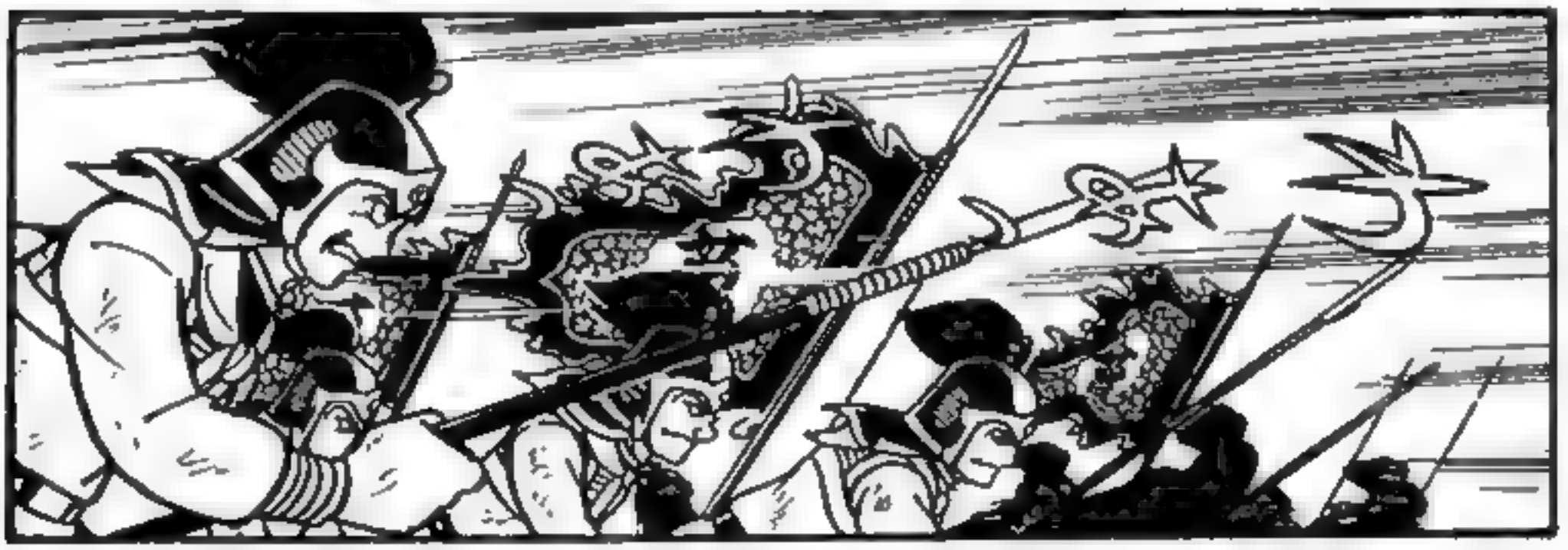

AHH!




OUR LORD IS...!

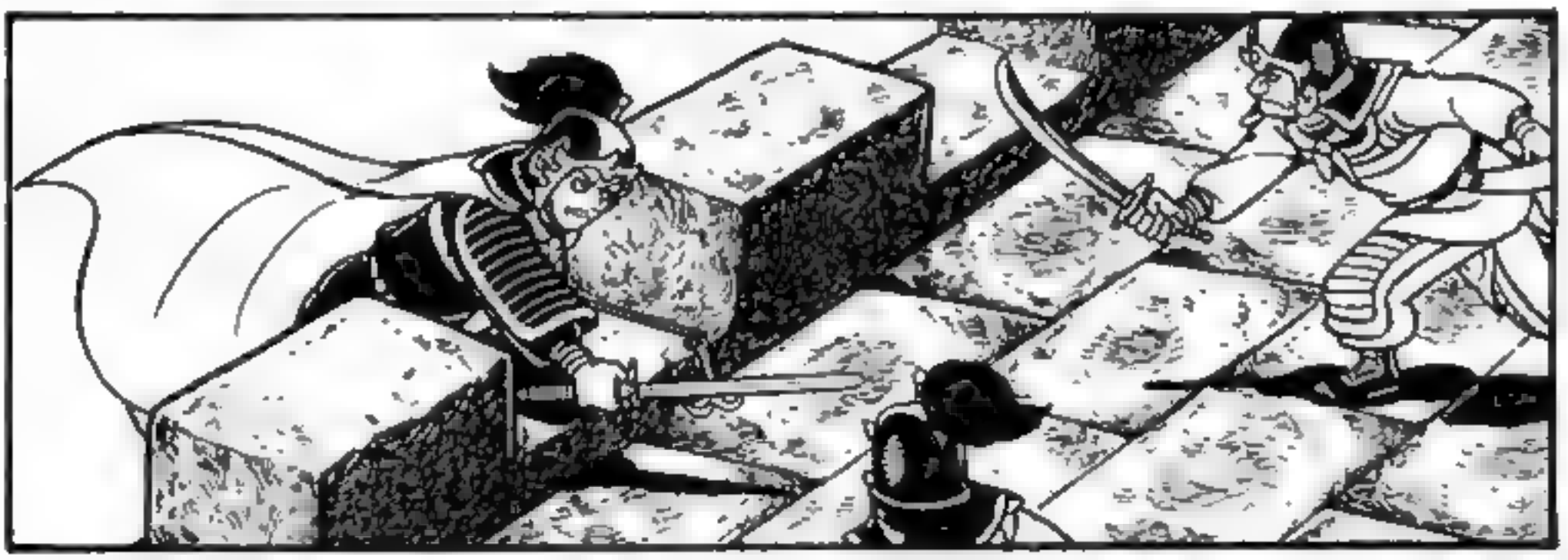

FOLLOW AFTER OUR LORD'S EXAMPLE!


COME ON, MEN!






FOLLOW AFTER ME!



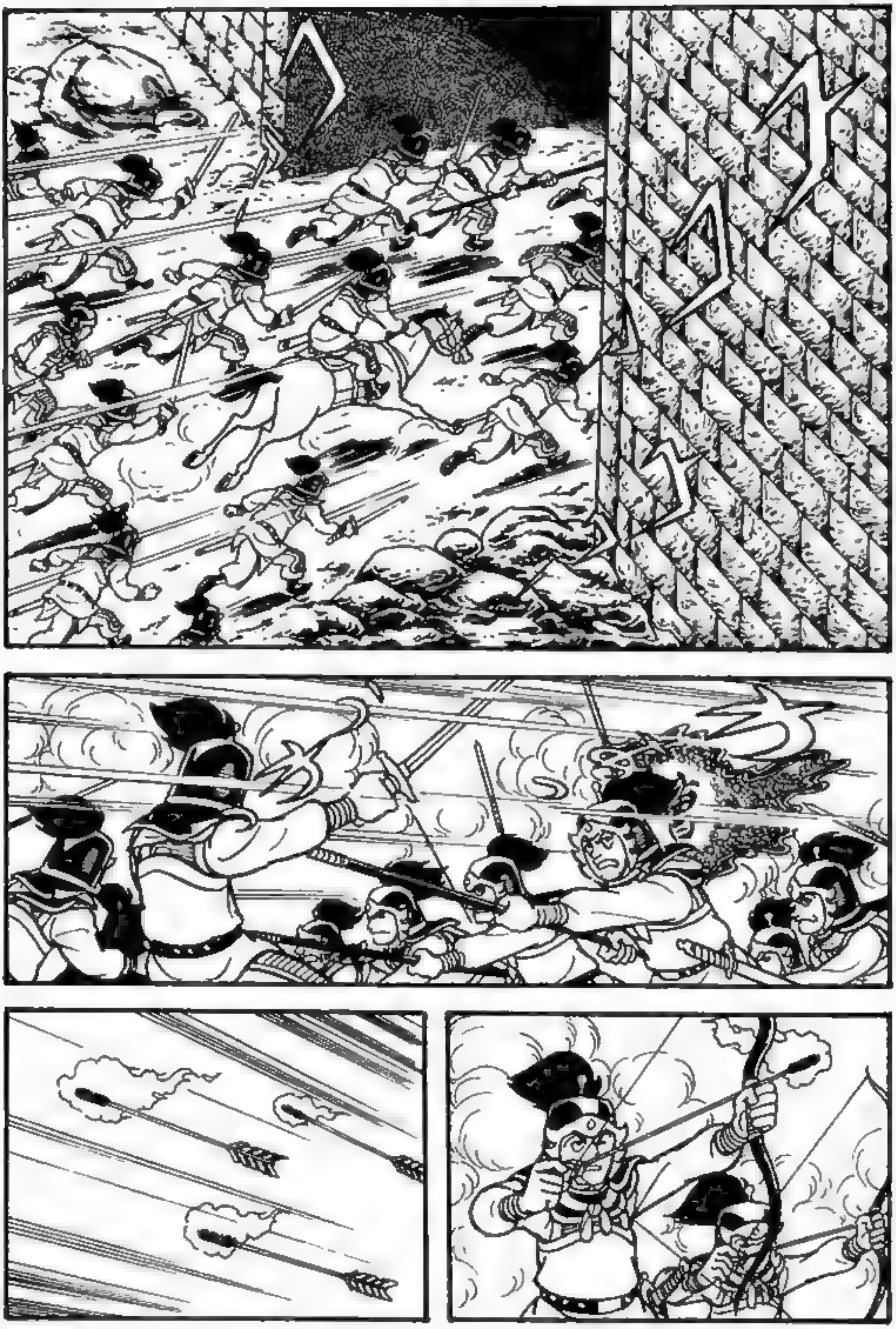


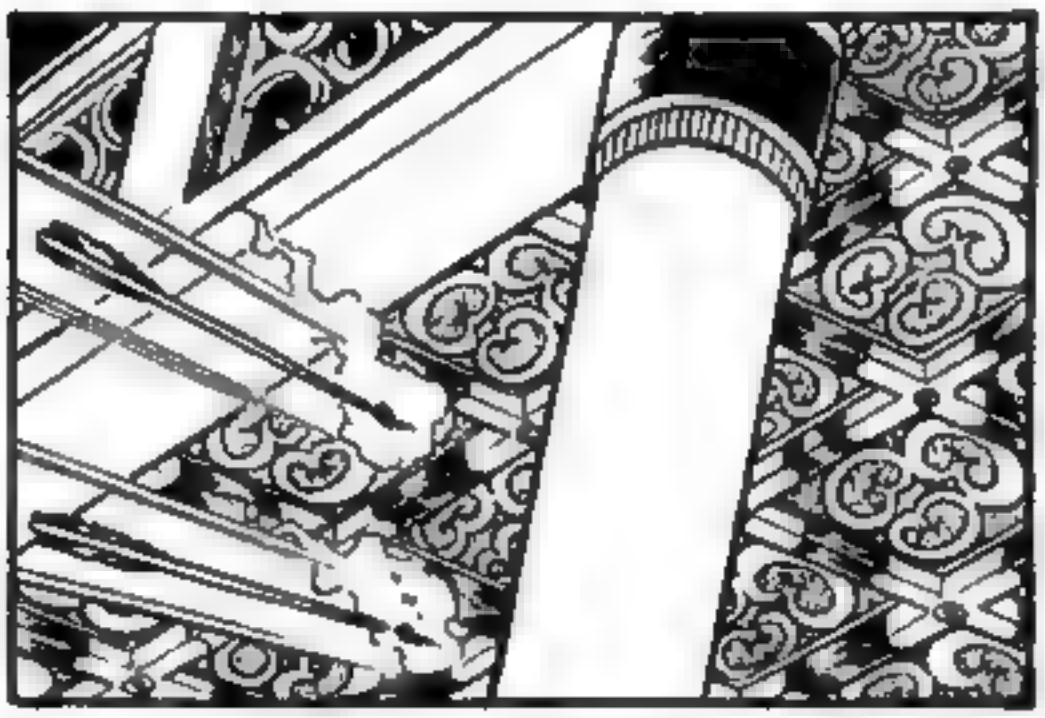


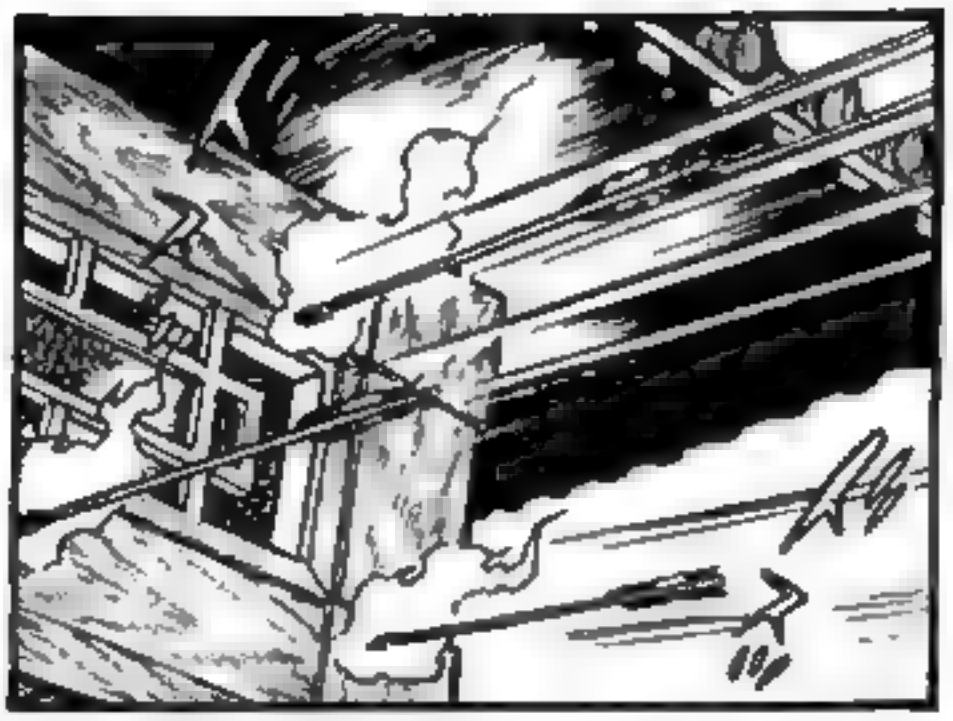
LEAVE THE REST TO US, SIR!

MY LORD, PLEASE TAKE COVER!

SIR, WE'VE SUCCEEDED IN OPENING THE CASTLE GATES!





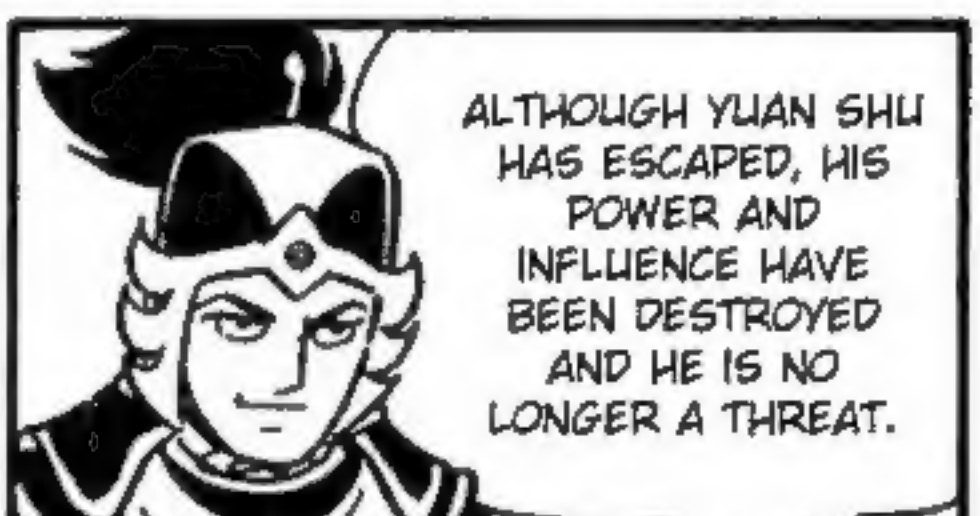





WE DID IT!


THANK YOU, XUANDE. YOU TOO HAVE MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION IN THIS WAR AGAINST YUAN SHU.
I CONGRATULATE THE CHANCELLOR ON THE GREAT VICTORY.


BY THE WAY, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE YUZHOU FOR THE TIME BEING AND RETURN TO XIAOPEI.


ALTHOUGH YUAN SHU HAS ESCAPED, HIS POWER AND INFLUENCE HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND HE IS NO LONGER A THREAT.

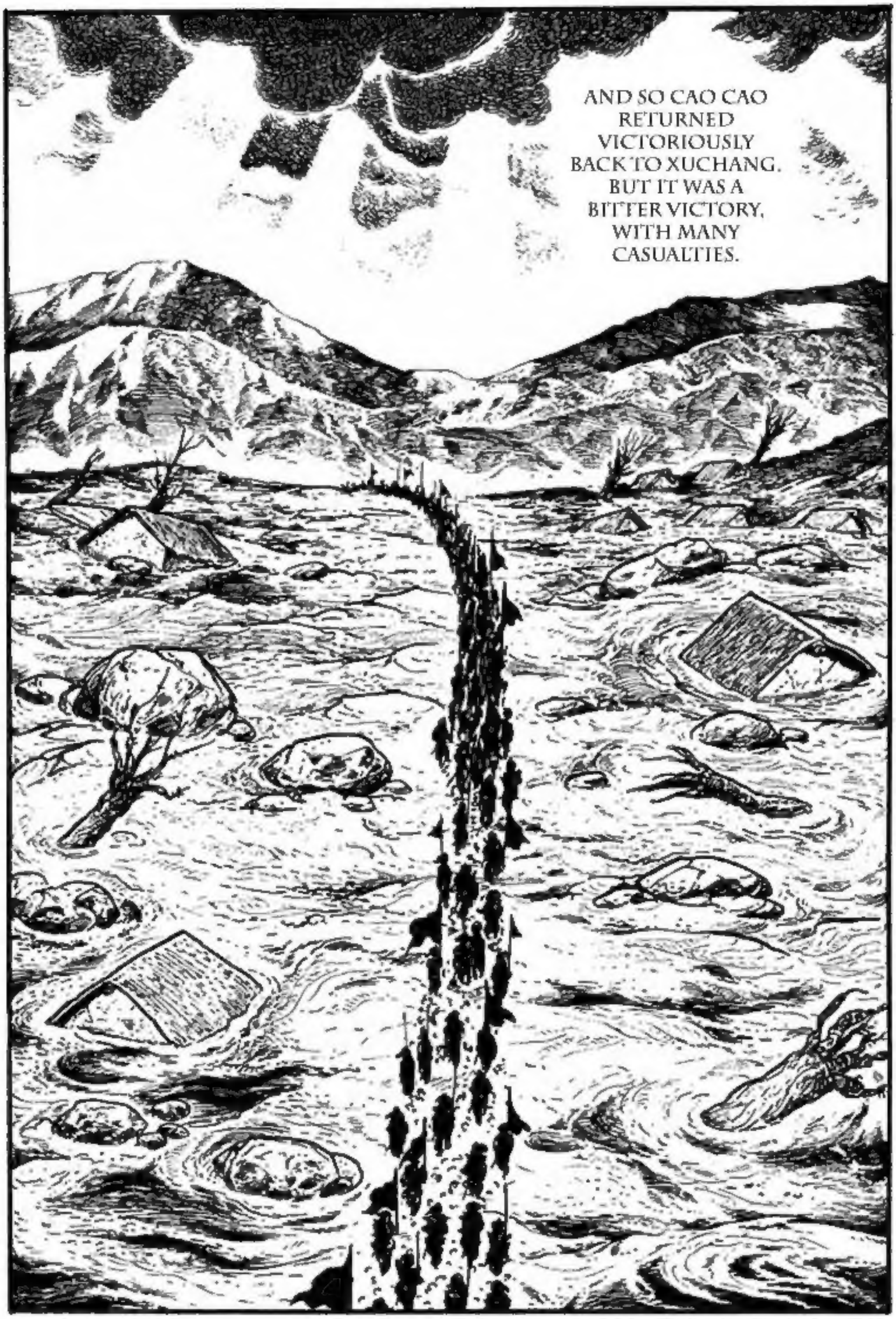
I TALKED WITH LU BU ABOUT THE MATTER AND HE AGREED TO IT AS WELL.

CHEN GUI AND CHEN DENG OF XUZHOU ARE CURRENTLY PLOTTING A TRAP FOR THE TIGER.

TO BE HONEST, THE REAL REASON I WANT YOU TO RETURN TO XIAOPEI IS TO DEAL WITH THE "TIGER" OF XUZHOU.

I WANT YOU TO WORK WITH THEM AND ENSURE THAT NOTHING GOES WRONG.

I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE THEN. MAY WE MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.




TRANSLATED BY HOX

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電子書籍版

# 三国志

## 12

横山 光輝

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